



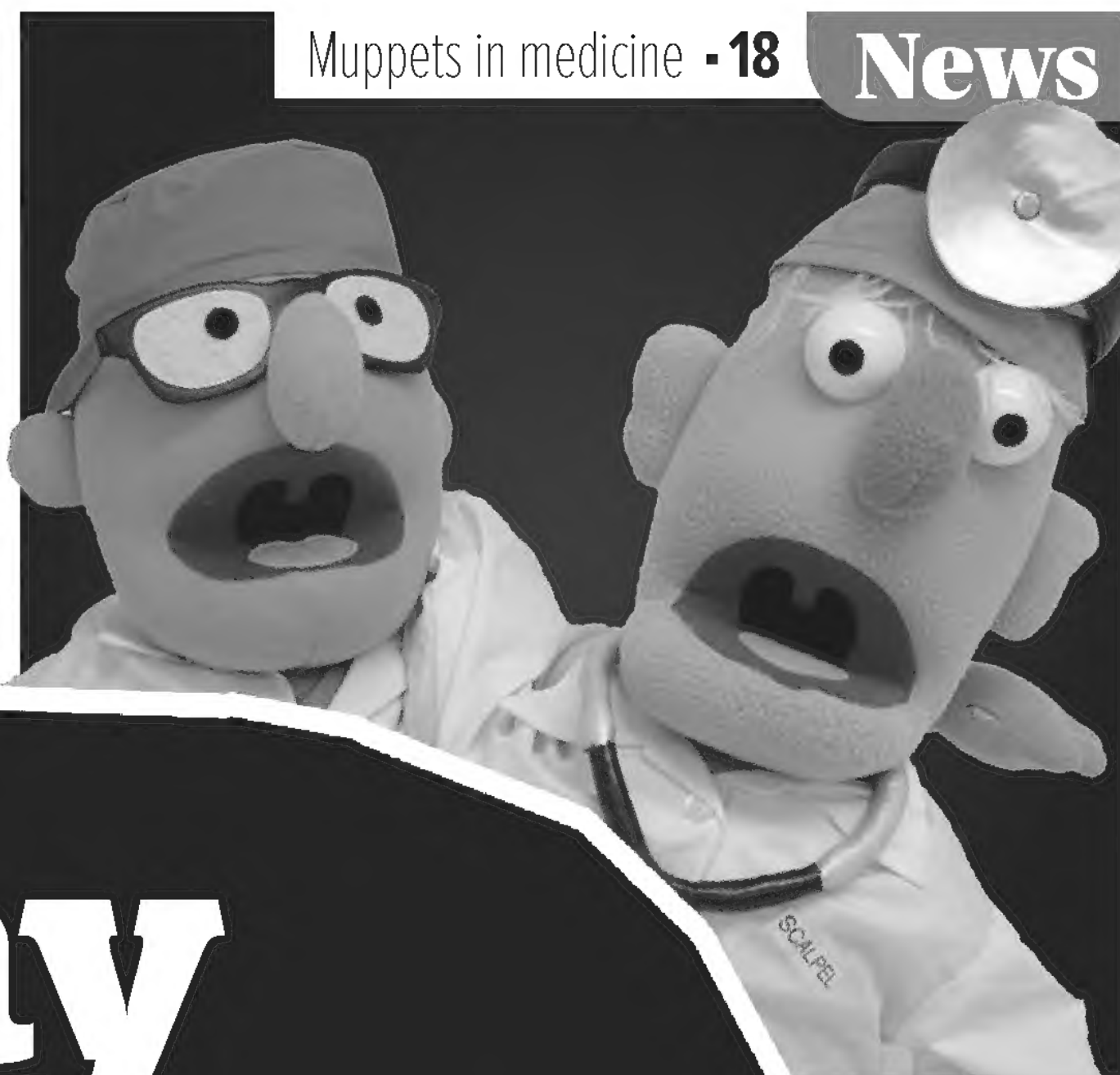
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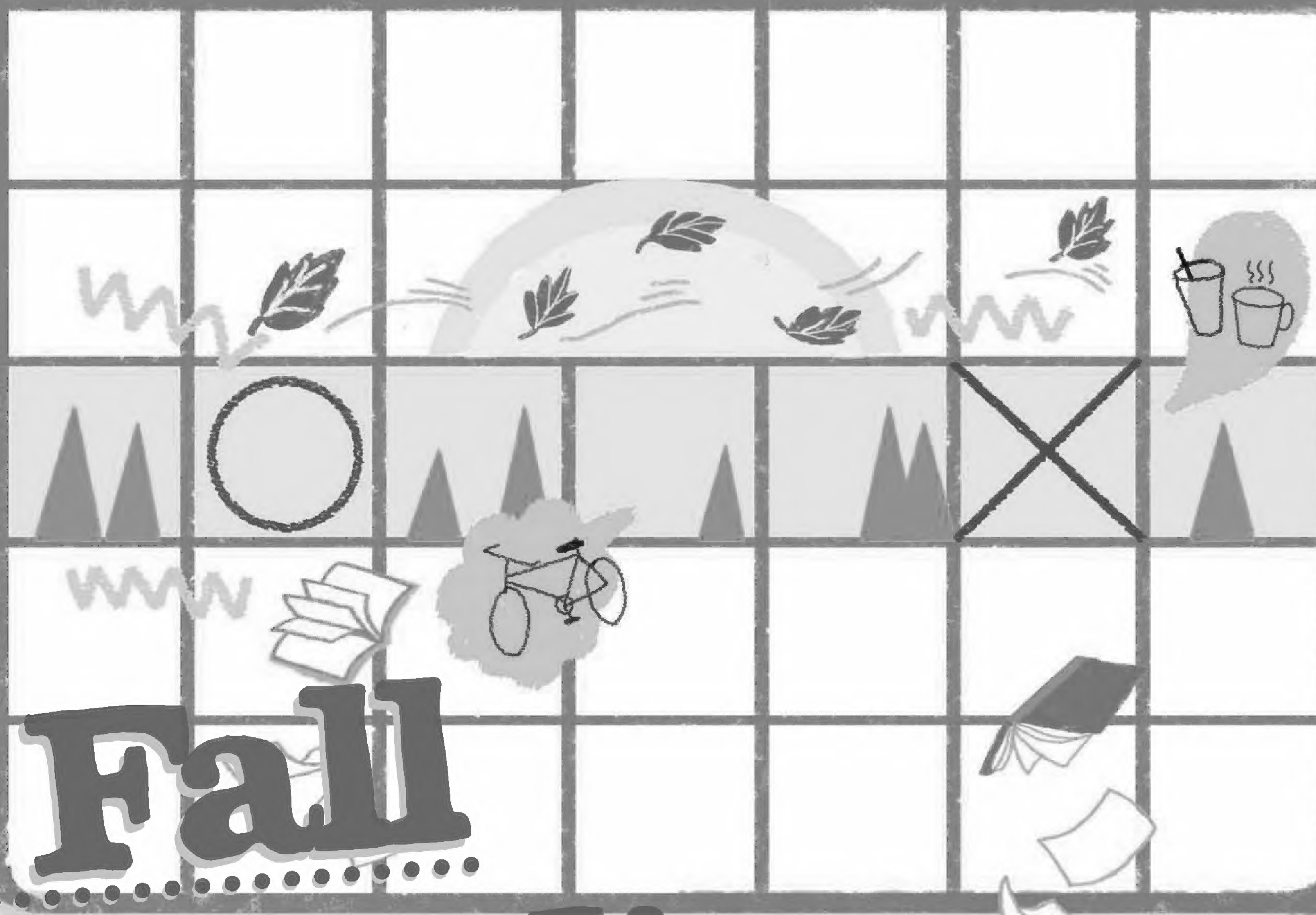
News

April 2nd, 2014 • Issue No. 31 • Volume 104

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

November 2015



Fall

Reading

Week

After more than four
years of anticipation,
it's finally here. Well,
almost. **Page 14**

"The 5 Days for the Homeless ppl
take pictures all smiling and having a
good time. It makes ppl think being
homeless is fun or something."

#3LF
PAGE 13

THE

gateway

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colophon

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contributors

Richard Catangay-Liew, Caitlin Hart, Brad Kennedy, Lara Knech, Christina Varvis, Blake Fensom, Alexandros Papavasiliou, Katherine Hill, Jeremy Cherlet, Shannah Barros, Joel Aspden, Adam Pinkowski, Spencer Morrison, Helen Quevillon, Josh Schaefer, Sean Trayner, Stefane Jun, Nikhil Shah, Klara Woldenga, Elaine Yip, Jeff Smyth. Front page illustration by Jessica Hong.

news haiku

Lord Jesus save me
From the horrors of L'Express
Rubbery pizza



PHOTO OF THE WEEK Ben Sugars does a trick on his unicycle off Alumni Circle. SEAN TRAYNER

streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Andrea Ross + Sean Trayner

As you may have heard, the university recently approved fall reading week for November, 2015.

WE ASKED...

What will you be doing for fall reading week?

Jannat Garewal SCIENCE III

"I'm probably going to be making up for lost time, because I find reading week the best time to study and prepare for my midterms. I will actually be studying, I will catch up on my notes."

Ben Sugars SCIENCE I

"I'll probably be unicycling, playing some music. Hopefully going snowboarding, but I don't think hills will be open. Meeting new people as well. I walk up to them like 'Hey, wanna meet? Wanna be my friend?' It usually works."

Eric Kother SCIENCE II

"Definitely sleeping. 100 per cent sleeping. Who studies during reading week? I don't know if that's a thing that actually happens, it's more of a myth. I could possibly go outside a couple times in between sleeping."

Aman Johal NURSING IV

"I will not be in school, I'll be working hopefully, in a hospital."

Meet

The Gateway's Incoming Editorial Staff!

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UAlberta prof uses muppets as surgical teaching tool

Brad Kennedy

GATEWAY STAFF • @HELLA_BRAD

From the far reaches of outer space to the fantastical jungles of Treasure Island, there are few places that haven't been visited by Jim Henson's Muppets. Now, in a recent series of educational videos produced by University of Alberta professor Jonathan White, the Muppets explore an exciting new venue: the operating theatre.

Muppet Surgery features a pair of licensed Muppets — Dr. Scalpel and Medical Resident Thumbs — who work to explain simple surgical concepts to beginning medical students.

Filmed at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, the episode topics range from debunking common myths about surgical residencies to giving guided tours of the operating room, granting surgical novices a foundation of knowledge that will help them gain a foothold in an often intimidating environment.

For White, the series is all about giving students an accessible, basic education in a fun and unusual way.

"At first mention, you kind of think this is really weird. What have the Muppets got to do with surgery? Like, Muppets in the operating room? What's that all about?" White said. "The key to it is you're taking people's memories from childhood, of things like Muppets, and you're disarming them like that. You're kind of getting to their heart first, and then you're engaging with them on that level, and that leaves them open to let you teach them something about surgery."

The 11-episode series began



MUPPET MASTER Dr. Jonathan White uses Muppets as a teaching tool for surgery novices.

CHRISTINA VARVIS

airing in January of this year, although the concept has been in production since April 2013. The videos serve as a visual extension of White's wildly popular Surgery 101 Podcast, which details basic surgical knowledge on a variety of subjects in short, easy to understand audio recordings.

Surgery 101 has been downloaded over a million times by listeners in

more than 100 countries since its 2008 inception.

As the by-product of such a tremendously successful podcast, White said he has similar hopes for *Muppet Surgery*, which he said he thinks strikes a healthy balance between information and entertainment.

"We could make videos that are just fun, right, that are just

Muppets running around having funny conversations or having funny things happen to them," White said. "But that's not the point of the project; it's got to be educational as well. Even if you only learn one thing, or a little concept in each video — it's important to keep that in mind."

But White is no stranger to innovation in education. As a

recently named 2014 3M National Teaching Fellow, he's been recognized as one of Canada's leading post-secondary educators, and he said he believes that the instructional value of free, widely accessible resources like the Surgery 101 podcast are the way forward for educational institutions.

"The important thing is to enjoy teaching in an unconventional way. We think of a teacher as somebody standing up in class, talking to a whole bunch of three or four hundred students about some boring topic. Your standard medical video is some guy standing at a desk in a white coat," White said.

"You can be much more creative than that, and it doesn't take much time; it just takes a bit of imagination."

"Muppets in the operating room? What's that all about?"

JONATHAN WHITE
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA PROFESSOR

The final episode of *Muppet Surgery* aired last week, but White said he certainly doesn't plan on stopping there. After receiving generous industry funding to continue the series, he plans on hiring summer students to work on developing new video concepts for the upcoming year.

Until then, fans can support the series by watching, listening and downloading the Surgery 101 app, since — much like the Muppets his video series was based on — White says he would never be able to do this alone.

Michaëlle Jean talk encourages crowd to mirror Mandela's legacy

Caitlin Hart

GATEWAY STAFF

Indifference is never an option when people's voices have the power to ignite change in the world, Canada's former Governor General and Commander-in-Chief told a University of Alberta audience last Thursday.

Michaëlle Jean spoke to a crowd of professors, government representatives, community members and students at Convocation Hall for the first of a new series named in her honour that aims to raise the profile of African- and Caribbean-Canadians.

Jean's lecture, titled, "Mandela's Values and the African Diaspora: Why Should We Care?" took attendees through African and Caribbean history to present-day Canada, and explored how Mandela's legacy is valuable to the diversity and struggle of Canadians from all ethnic backgrounds.

"(Mandela) taught us all that unshakeable personal ethics pave the way to true and lasting change," Jean said. "He made us realize that every single gesture can make a difference."

The lecture, hosted by the arts and education faculties, was put on with the efforts of creating an endowed chair of African and

Caribbean Studies at the U of A.

Jean's talk focused on drawing parallels and inspiration between Mandela's work in South Africa and the past and present struggles of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples, a timely message as the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) made its way through Edmonton last weekend.

The TRC, who strives to inform Canadians about the Indian Residential School legacy and the need for continued healing, resembles a commission Mandela created to reconcile black and white South Africans, Jean said.

The core of Jean's talk centred on the value of diversity and history of moving forward as a unified Canada, and how to follow the principles Mandela held during the dismantling of the South African apartheid. Jean took a critical look at Canadian history, particularly in regards to Aboriginal Peoples, and encouraged attendees to make a serious commitment to embracing diversity, as Nelson Mandela did.

Jean, who participated in boycotts of South African products during the apartheid, shared how Mandela made herself and other students involved in the boycotts feel like they were "on the right side of history." Jean's lecture encouraged attendees



DIASPORA DISCUSSION Former Governor General Michaëlle Jean lectures at Convocation Hall.

BLAKE FENSOM

to examine how they too can be on the "right side" of Canadian history, as they forge a future that bridges the gap between Aboriginal Peoples and non-Aboriginal Peoples.

"Looking at our shared history can be heart-wrenching, at times intolerable. But I ask you, how else can we learn the truth?" Jean asked the crowd.

"Strong societies, when faced

with critical issues, go back and retrace their steps."

Jean also spoke to the invaluable impact Caribbean- and African-Canadians have made to Canada from its early years. Since African- and Caribbean-Canadians have made such a contribution in the past, and are a growing population today, Canadians should devote time to conducting research and educating

others about the history and experiences of Caribbean and African people, Jean said.

"We work hard against some forces that would like to erase our history," Jean said, almost in tears as she spoke about her native Haiti's impact on Canada and the world.

"There is only one thing worse than being forgotten, and that is being erased."

THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

APRIL 9 • 2014

Gold wall pledges for sexual violence prevention

Andrew Jeffrey
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

Students and passersby will see pledges penned by their peers on the Wall of Gold in SUB this week as part of a new campaign aiming to engage campus about sexual violence prevention.

The pledges ask students to sign their name beside a written commitment of what they will do to help contribute to a campus free of sexual violence. The University of Alberta's Sexual Assault Centre has been collecting pledges from students across campus to be displayed on SUB's first floor this week throughout the past two to three months. Leanne Wruck, Sexual Assault Centre Team Leader, said around 250 have been submitted already and a booth alongside the display allows students to contribute more.

"There's something when we make a pledge saying, 'I'm going to write this down and I'm going to sign my name to it, this is what I'm going to do,' that's different from hearing something from a workshop or reading something online. It's a call to action," she said.

Samantha Pearson, the centre's Education Program Co-ordinator, said a common theme seen in these student-written pledges is the idea of intervening and people feeling empowered to prevent sexual violence.

Another theme is a commitment to avoid buying into sexual violence

myths and being critical of the media's messages on the issue.

"This is the first time we've really engaged the campus," Pearson said. "Typically we do a lot of educating around the issue, and that's how students get their information about the issue. We do a section in our workshops about bystander prevention and how people can intervene safely and what that would look like, but we've never done anything like this."

The wall of pledges was an idea developed by the centre's awareness committee volunteers. The purpose of the wall has been to use a community-based approach that engages students of all genders to think about what they can do to help prevent sexual assault.

The campaign builds off of the idea of the White Ribbon awareness campaign, which began more than 20 years ago and asks men to pledge not to commit violence against women. But the university's Sexual Assault Centre wanted to use their own campaign to recognize that sexual violence doesn't just happen to women, and encourage people to find ways to prevent this issue in their community.

"The goal right now, not just with our own community but across Canada really, is enacting that paradigm shift that we've seen," Wruck said. "People really recognizing that in order to prevent something from happening, we have to get to what the root causes are. Not just things



PREVENTATIVE PLEDGES A wall of pledges greets students in walking through SUB.

LARA KMECH

that might prevent one individual person from being assaulted, but why is this happening as often as it is."

The Sexual Assault Centre already offers education to groups across campus — between 50 and 60 presentations have already been conducted since January — on a variety of topics such as how to prevent and

respond to issues of sexual assault. But the wall of pledges goes further to encourage students to think critically about the issue.

"This project goes beyond the typical boundaries of just talking about survivors' experiences only, and really engaging people on an individual level to self-reflect," Wruck said.

"When we think about change, it's not going to be done with any one person. It's when we all think about it differently and we all are engaged with really closely looking at our own behaviours and those of our friends, and what the media is teaching us, what we're being taught about sexual assault and combining all of that together."

Engineering and commerce alliance seizes international prize

Richard Catangay-Liew
GATEWAY STAFF • @THEWICKERMAN

Four University of Alberta students relied on engineering and business know-how at the Engineering and Commerce Case Competition (ECCC) held in Montreal earlier this month.

The U of A squad secured first place at the international contest and proved how chemistry and organic bonding are crucial elements in both science and real-life scenarios.

Fifth-year chemical engineering students Ahmed Ibrahim, Henry Lau and Brad Leonard teamed up with business student Scott Jelec for the three-day competition, which tested their academic prowess and problem solving abilities in three separate challenges.

“Coming out tops in the country is a really good confidence booster.”

HENRY LAU
FIFTH-YEAR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT

The team came together after an Engineering Students' Society newsletter notified them of the ECCC. The team then enlisted Bill Pick, the McGee Chair in Process Design at the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, as their coach and manager.

"I asked (Bill) because he has the engineering background, but also because he worked up in management at Dow (Chemical)," Leonard said. "I wasn't looking for someone who was limited to a theoretical background."

The challenges were eight, six and four hour-long cases, where an ECCC sponsor gave the students a situational problem. They had to



CHAMPIONSHIP CREW Scott Jelec, Ahmed Ibrahim, Bill Pick, Bradley Leonard and Henry Lau took home the ECCC title.

SUPPLIED

construct a solution to the dilemma, devise a marketing strategy for the solution then propose it to panel of esteemed judges.

"The questions they asked were challenging," Leonard said, who recalled question period as one of the most difficult aspects of the competition. "The judges were intimidating. They treated it like a real life scenario, and not like some competition."

While Ibrahim, Lau and Leonard said they felt technically proficient in the engineering aspects of the problems, they admitted they lacked the marketing background the judges demanded. That's where Jelec's presence was invaluable, they said.

"Scott's contributions exceeded himself," Leonard said. "He did all the financial presentations and calculations. He spewed a lot of stuff I had no idea about."

Lau and Ibrahim echoed Leonard's sentiments, and said Jelec's business acumen and commerce expertise impressed the judges and even rivals from other universities.

Ten universities from around the world entered the ECCC including McGill University, Ryerson University, the University of Calgary and the University of KwaZulu-Natal among others.

The task on day one had the universities redesign a gas-blower for one of the ECCC sponsors so that it could be utilized for a wide variety

of applications and services.

Day two's challenge required the teams to act as consultants for Molson Coors Canada Inc., and were asked to devise a solution to overcome the automated processing structure that wasn't meeting the brewery's standards.

The U of A towered atop the standings after day two, qualifying for the third and final case.

Case three, which was originally supposed to be four hours long, turned into a day-long marathon after ECCC organizers nixed all rules to work on a brain computer interface, a completely new technology which none of the contestants knew of.

The unit worked up until the last

minute. After presenting a "Dragon's Den style pitch with numbers" to a panel of nine prestigious judges, the U of A representatives were declared ECCC champion, securing the ECCC Innovation Award as well.

While the five said they felt versed in their respective academic areas, they largely attributed their success to outstanding team chemistry and support for each other, Ibrahim said.

"I think we worked very well together as a group," he said. "We were all communicating very well throughout on how to integrate (engineering and business) together."

Lau said the experience and thrill of being number one in an international competition provided him with attributes he didn't know he had prior to the ECCC.

“It was interesting having that recognition that represents well for the U of A.”

BRADLEY LEONARD
FIFTH-YEAR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT

"I didn't know how competent I was," he said. "But coming out tops in the country is a really good confidence booster."

Since winning, Pick said he's received congratulations from President Samarasekera, Provost Carl Amrhein, deans and chairs. He noted how proud he was of the students, and how impressed he is with the impact the ECCC win has made with upper management.

Leonard said representing the U of A on an international stage was a grand opportunity.

"There were a lot of comments about the strength of the university," he said. "It was interesting having that recognition that represents well for the U of A."

GOOD LUCK on Your Exams!

Here is some helpful advice from past grads to get you through.



Taryn Barry, '07 BA
Director/Founder of the Etisah Foundation,
Graduate Student

Favourite secret study spot?
The Bears Den.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
I went indoor climbing at Urban Uprising in the Butterdome. It's a great environment to exercise, listen to music and relax.



Jessica Baudin-Griffin, '05 BEd
Business Owner (J'Adore Dance and Intellidance®), Writer and Early Childhood Movement Educator

Favourite secret study spot?
My favourite place to study was SUB - the hustle and bustle was like white noise for me.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
I never studied past 8:00 p.m. All-nighters never worked for me. Your brain needs rest to learn effectively.



Karina Birch, '99 BCom
Co-owner, Rocky Mountain Soap

Favourite secret study spot?
Rutherford Library.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
Lots of yoga.



Chris Tse, '07 BSc
Co-Owner of Blitz Conditioning Inc.

Favourite secret study spot?
Rutherford Library; love the old books and natural light.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
It was probably cycling between curling up in a little ball and rocking myself to sleep while weeping uncontrollably and hitting the gym. I had a ritual of going to the gym right after an exam just to take some stress off.



Caroline Gault, '10 BA
Alberta Editor at FASHION Magazine, Social Seen Columnist at the Edmonton Journal, freelance style/travel writer

Favourite secret study spot?
The Rutherford Library North, 5th floor, the cubicles by the window.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
Nap!



Natasha Staniszewski, '00 BCom
TSN Anchor/Reporter

Favourite secret study spot?
Rutherford Library.

What did you do to help you stay sane during exam time?
Made a study schedule to help organize my time and tried to work out regularly.

Town hall hears Int'l Students' Association plans

Richard Catangay-Liew

GATEWAY STAFF ■ @THEWICKERMAN

Representatives from the Students' Union and various international groups gathered at a town hall last Friday to discuss the implementation of the International Students' Association (ISA). The assembly comes after the Board of Governors approved a five per cent tuition hike for international undergraduate students in December 2013, which triggered a cry for equal representation from the SU from those affected.

Individuals or groups from the U of A's international community were tasked with presenting proposals as to what the ISA should look like and what the organization would do. Proposals were required to outfit the ISA's organizational structure, executive structure and decision-making processes.

William Lau, SU Vice-President (Student Life), said proposals should detail how the ISA will enhance communications and build relationships on campus, connect with the SU through advocacy efforts and branch out to the university's International Student Services and the International Centre.

"We want to build a truly international environment," Lau said. "We went to build cultural awareness between the various cultures on campus."

Parjanya Joshi, Zhaoyi Chen, Diego Luces and Chevy Bui presented a collaborative presentation after realizing their original separate proposals aligned similarly.

The town hall was set up to facilitate discussion and critique between groups proposing and students in attendance, but the four



ISA IDEAS December's BoG meeting to hike tuition by 5 per cent spurred efforts to create an ISA

FILE PHOTO: MICHELLE MARK

collaborators were the only group who shared their vision for the ISA.

Joshi, who arrived in Edmonton from India in 2011, noted how the ISA has the potential to create change on campus for international students. The establishment of a unified voice for international students is something that seemed improbable when he first came to Canada, he said.

"Back then we never thought we'd be treated unfairly like cash cows and that our tuition would be increased arbitrarily," he said. "We never thought that we would actually do something about it."

"(The ISA) is the sum total of all the beliefs of the students who want

this change to happen."

Chen, who said she felt incredibly passionate for international student rights, stated that a collective body for international students has been a dream and goal of hers since she came to Canada from China.

"This campus should be a safe haven for international students to succeed," she said. "The ISA is here to advocate, protect and fight for our privileges."

The four collaborators proposed that all international undergraduate students would automatically be enrolled as ISA members.

They also outlined a three-year plan, where the ISA would start out as an official student group at the

university and eventually move up to a policy-making body.

The ISA would also include a council consisting of a speaker, elected executives and representatives from international student groups. The council would then vote on policies and discuss issues pertaining to international students.

So far, 18 stakeholders across campus have expressed interest in the ISA's prospects, with 13 stakeholders having committed fully.

Dustin Chelen, SU Vice-President (Academic), added that although the creation of the ISA has seen positive interest and feedback, there are several barriers including time, commitment and how to make the

ISA relevant to all stakeholders.

One of the concerns raised in the town hall was the role of international graduate students in the ISA. Chelen said that approximately 35 per cent of those in graduate studies are international students, compared to the 12 per cent in undergraduate studies.

The collaborators said they believed the Graduate Students' Association provided ample representation for international students already.

They added that the first step for the ISA is to get registered as an official student group before the semester ends, and that they would further discuss graduate student membership when they are more fully developed.

SU President Petros Kusmu recounted that mobilizing international student support back in December was a difficult challenge and said he anticipates seeing what the ISA can do.

"I think we did a fantastic job... but now we have an opportunity to engage with a whole bunch of international students and I think this is an excellent start," he said. "It seems like this three-year plan is going in the right direction."

Lau, the incoming 2014-15 SU President, said he's extremely satisfied with how far planning for the ISA has gone. For the time being, it's important for students to stay engaged regarding the formation of the ISA and prepare for the future, he said.

"International student issues are things we all hear about," he said. "I hope that all international undergraduate and graduate students keep their ears to the ground and see what next steps are up."

New law school in B.C. stirs controversy, pushback from Ont.

Darko Milenkovic

THE LANCE (UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR)

WINDSOR (CUP) — The soon-to-be first Christian law school in Canada is drawing the attention of law faculties across the country with its controversial requirement that students sign a contract saying they will uphold the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, prohibiting members of the LGBTQ community from entering the law program.

The discriminatory community covenant, a contract that must be signed by all students at Trinity Western University (TWU) in Langley, B.C., has caused some law schools to take a stand before the first Juris Doctor students are accepted to the new program in 2016.

Katelyn Scorer, a second-year law student from the University of Windsor, said agreements such as TWU's members of the LGBTQ community are denied equal opportunities for education.

■ **"It gives reduced access to law school seats for LGBTQ applicants."**

MIKE MAHER

VP OF THE STUDENT LAW SOCIETY (UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR)

"It creates a quota system in Canada wherein heterosexual individuals have more opportunity at legal education than non-heterosexual individuals," Scorer said. "I identify as a lesbian, so I have less opportunity of law school options than heterosexual students."

TWU received conditional approval

for its proposed law program from the Federation of Law Societies of Canada Approval Committee and from the provincial government in B.C.

■ **"I have less opportunity of law school options than heterosexual students."**

KATELYN SCORER

SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENT (UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR)

The university has stood by their covenant, defending what they say is religious freedom, but their covenant has already begun to receive push back from across the country.

It's up to each province to decide on the accreditation of TWU's School of Law graduates. The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC), representing Ontario, has accepted more than 300 online submissions from people and institutions either supporting or opposing TWU.

The Faculty Council at Windsor Law, the law school at the University of Windsor, recently voiced its disapproval of the contract, passing a motion to ask the LSUC to withhold accreditation of graduates from Trinity Western until changes are made.

Scorer wrote the motion and presented it.

"(The motion) is not taking the approach ... of saying Trinity Western doesn't have the right to open a law school," Scorer said. "Our approach is more that they have the right — we accept and support religious freedom — however, we do not support discrimination and that's what (TWU's) community



DISCRIMINATORY DILEMMA TWU law students must now sign a contract saying they uphold heterosexual values.

SUPPLIED

covenant clauses do.

"TWU based it off a 2001 case where they won and were allowed to open a teachers college. However ... you have to consider the social context of that time. It's been over a decade and social context has changed. The fight for equality for LGBTQ individuals has progressed."

Mike Maher, vice-president of the Student Law Society (SLS) at UWindsor, said the covenant couldn't be justified.

"Regardless of the intent of Trinity Western in including the discriminatory clauses, the effect is discriminatory," he said. "No matter which way you attempt to justify the community covenant, it gives

reduced access to law school seats for LGBTQ applicants.

"Not giving credit to TWU degrees is the only way that the LSUC can meaningfully address the discrimination inherent in the community covenant."

LSUC will meet on April 10 and April 24 to determine Ontario's response.

International students working under-the-table

Brittany Barber
THE DIALOG (GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE)

TORONTO (CUP) — Toronto is one of the most multicultural cities in the world, and with that comes students from other countries looking to further their education. With students coming from more than 100 nations to study at the city's urban George Brown College (GBC) and tuition fees rising, the pressure is on them to find work as soon as possible.

Under-the-table jobs, commonly known as "cash jobs," have picked up momentum among international students looking for an alternative way to meet their expenses.

These jobs don't require a social insurance number or a work permit. It's a deal between the employer and the employee to work for cash. The employers sometimes pay below the minimum wage and dodge taxes, while employees often work more than the specified hours they are allowed.

Tutoring, editing classmates' work, dog walking, working in repairs, being a handyman or participating in day labour are some of the jobs available under the table today.

But of course, it's illegal. "The reason why we have to take cash jobs is because tuition and living expenses are very high in the city," said a former business student at GBC who asked to remain anonymous for legal reasons.

"There is lot of exploitation when we work for cash. There is insecurity. We don't get paid on time and sometimes don't get paid at all."

Under current rules, international students have to wait for the first six months before being eligible for an off-campus work

permit. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), the new rules for international students will take effect on June 1.

The six-month waiting period will be abolished and students with valid study permits — who are pursuing academic, vocational or professional training of six months or more leading to a degree, diploma or certificate at a designated institution — will be eligible to work off-campus for up to 20 hours per week during the academic session, and full-time during scheduled breaks.

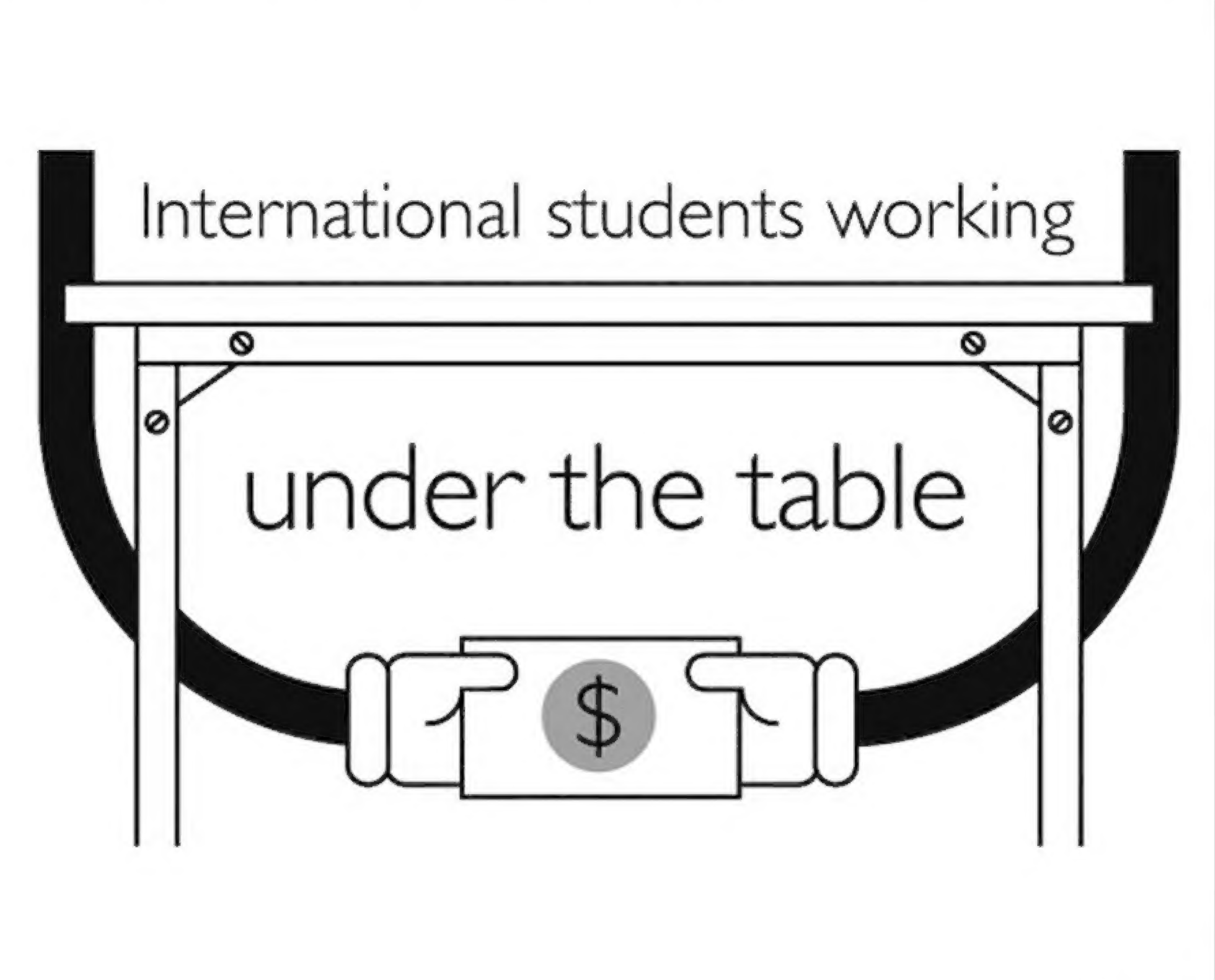
CIC claims that new regulations will improve services to genuine students, while protecting Canada's international reputation for high-quality education and reducing the potential for fraud and misuse of the program.

Tuition fees for international students at GBC have increased from \$5,700 to \$6,440 per semester for both diploma and certificate programs, effective May 5. Degree programs are increasing by \$950 this year for a total of \$8,250 per semester.

For larger, more prestigious schools, tuition can be much higher. For example, the University of Toronto has first-year international tuition rates that can exceed \$30,000 and are expected to rise for the next few years.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation said the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto's centre is roughly \$1,213 per month.

Working at minimum wage at 20 hours per week can earn up to \$888 a month. But with rent, rising tuition fees and the limited amount of hours internationals student are allowed to work, some students say



PROHIBITED POSITIONS International students are forced to work under-the-table jobs to pay for tuition.

SUPPLIED ILLUSTRATION: SAM BULLIS

the numbers just don't add up.

A marketing student from GBC who also spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of deportation explained the willingness to work for cash. "We go for cash jobs for two reasons, everything is so expensive; and they have a lot of restrictions on work permits."

"There is an employment agency in Cabbagetown (a Toronto neighbourhood), I went there looking for a job. After a few days they called me

and said that they have some labour jobs available. They don't need your SIN or work permit; they just want you to work. They collaborate with employers. They said that they will take 1.5 per cent commission per hour," the student said.

The International Centre at GBC will work with international students, but they can't help students with resident visas, study or work permits; students are directed to the official CIC website or call centre.

International students currently have the option of working for the school without a work permit. Also, if students can handle the workload, it's possible to work for the college while working elsewhere on a valid work permit. There's no law or policy keeping students from working 20 hours off campus and 20 hours on campus.

Not declaring income is a federal offence and may result in deportation for international students.

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Opinion meetings Thursdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Movements like TRC need support for an inclusive Canada

AS CANADIAN POLITICS SEEMS TO BE ON A DESTRUCTIVE PATH IN the wake of people like Alison Redford and Rob Ford, it's not hard to be cynical and skeptical of our nation's politicians. But seeing Mayor Don Iveson leading a reconciliation march on Sunday, watching him live tweet the events of the Alberta National Event and finally, making a speech committing to another year of concentrated local efforts toward reconciliation has sparked a glimmer of hope.

These efforts all circle around a single process: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A component of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the commission is a five-year court ordered mandate to investigate the legacy of residential schools. The process includes hearing and recording statements of survivors and their families, and the much-necessary education of all Canadians about the truths that have lurked for generations behind systematic denial. The seventh and final National Event in Edmonton this past weekend culminated the Commission's four year public hearing process aimed at community connection, consciousness-raising and healing. Thousands of people visited the Shaw Conference centre over the four-day event, with more than 3200 survivors registered and more than 400 statements recorded. It was a chance for voices to be heard without judgment, without disbelief, and for a legacy of truth to finally start to balance out the dark stain on our nation's history.

During the weeks preceding the event, there was budding excitement for the local stop, balanced with trepidation for what the Commission would change in the days, weeks and years to come. During a speech on the final day, Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission, spoke of a 9/11-commemoration event he attended in New York the year prior. He talked about the way Americans frame the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001 as a day that should never be forgotten, contrasting it with the way that Canada's legacy surrounding residential schools has been to forget, deny or refuse to interact with. Famously, Prime Minister Stephen Harper suggested that Canada has no colonial history. Further, much of the response to the commission the past four years has been one of shock that any of the trauma could've happened in our country. What many don't realize is that more than 130 years were spent with residential schools, with the final school in Winnipeg closing less than 20 years ago in 1996. More than 130,000 children were uprooted from their homes by force into schools where their aboriginal culture was unwelcome, and where many children were abused physically, sexually and emotionally. The legacy of these schools didn't end with their closing, because the communities were torn apart, and the children grew into adults who were denied services, who weren't believed and who were shunned for their heritage.

Thus, this weekend's events acknowledged the necessity of continued efforts to educate the public on the horrors in Canada's past, and to reduce ignorance and apathy to the experience of survivors. Recently, Angela Davis, an American prison abolitionist and anti-racism advocate, spoke at the University of Alberta, and in her speech she spoke about Canadian indigenous populations and how the Truth and Reconciliation Commission would only make a difference if other Canadians used it as a jumping off point for continued discussions about and interrogations of the systemic societal issues and marginalization that Aboriginal people face as a result of Canada's colonial legacy — more specifically, residential schools. Survivors of these schools are among the most resilient of our population and don't need pity. But they do need allies in the rest of the Canadian population. The results and recommendations of the Commission will be compiled and recorded for public use by June 2015, but the public and vocal support and interest in these issues can't end with this weekend. And it's up to figure like Iveson to keep these issues in the public discourse.

Questions of course remain on how best to fast track our country into a place of equality and progress. While there's no simple solution, it begins with positive action by our leaders. Seeing our gangly, smiling mayor leading the pack of people flooding from the Shaw Conference on Sunday marked reconciliation as a locally necessary and important issue. His impassioned speech on the local, continued focus on reconciliation was important. It was important in providing plans for resources for local populations who need them, important in keeping the people of Edmonton aware of the issues and important in setting a precedent of action. Ignorance is too easy as we get swept up in the ebb and flow of daily life. But privileged populations cannot ignore an ongoing legacy of racism, of oppression, of violence, of crime, of inequality. It must be interacted with, challenged, and Iveson's efforts will help that.

Paige Gorsak
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR



ANTHONY GOERTZ

letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

Palestine shouldn't be blaming neighbours

(Re: "Israel should not be called an apartheid," by Cole Forster, March 12)

Since the Palestinians have been in the Middle East forever, it's fair to ask, what is it that has kept them from accomplishing something for themselves? The answer of course is "themselves." Apparently they see it as more productive to do nothing productive. They allow extremists to dictate policy that is extremist, and spend untold billions advocating destruction of others, including Arabs they don't see eye to eye with.

How about creating a work ethic that is used to produce food? How about demanding elections and choosing a leader who will make even a token attempt at co-operation.

Blaming your neighbours for your ineptitude is the cop out of all cop outs. Forget spending all the gifted dollars on armaments and start a system that will feed your people as the Israelis have done. Stop the blame game and accept some responsibility for your lack of achievement.

"Del Funk"
VIA WEB

FROM THE ARCHIVES

You should really join a fraternity

I really must protest against the

belittling remarks and snide comments that were permitted in the last *Gateway*. The Walrus and Dr. Scott were especially insidious in their deliberate misinterpretation of the position taken by our fraternity.

You can be sure that the people that attack fraternities are those unfortunate ones who are socially unacceptable and take up this sort of thing to cover up their own jealousies and frustrations. After all, who wouldn't be a member of a fraternity if he could be? It's the apex of society on this campus. There are no prouder words than, "Yes, I belong to a fraternity." The first year student's great triumph, his greatest hope is to be rushed by a fraternity. Then he knows that he really belongs; that he is a desirable member of the society.

To be frank, in Canada, we do not make enough of the fraternities. Imagine, people go so far as to laud places like Saskatchewan and Dalhousie, where fraternities are banned. This is an example of that kind of thinking that we are only too willing to permit. The Americans take a different view of the privilege of belonging to a fraternity. There we find that fraternities have taken their rightful place as leaders of campus society.

The uninitiated protest that fraternities split the campus into social groups and create artificial bars. This may be true to a certain extent, but that is exactly what society will do when we leave here. After all, you cannot expect members here to pledge a member of a different race if that member would not be accepted in a fraternity in the States. Fraternities have their origins

in the States and hold that bond very dear. And it's not more painful to be blackballed by one's social superiors at university than to be snubbed later in life by outside society. A good fraternity member doesn't try to make his eminence and success a bar between himself and the average. A real nobleman never lets his inferiors feel their lower positions; and that is what a fraternity man is — a nobleman. One of Canada's real nobleman.

So let us quit attacking fraternities and our social leaders and let us all take up the great crusade of forming a real regulated society on our campus. In the world there is a place for everyone and if we cannot be on the top then let us take up our natural positions and do the best we can.

Yours for a better society and stronger colour lines.

Leif G. Stolee
NOVEMBER 19, 1953

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: KEVIN SCHENK

Give us some space to grab a nap



**Helen
Quevillon**
OPINION STAFF

With students stressed about impending finals, many are putting in long hours on campus. But a lack of proper napping spots makes it hard to make up a few hours of sleep until you get home. And with the recent loss of the sunny quiet room in SUB — the choicest place to catch a nap in that building — our options are even more limited than usual. That's why I think it's time for the SU to create a nap room where students can go and have a nap — aside from the study carols in the library.

Picture this: Dinwoodie Lounge filled with cots and cubbies where you can stash your bag. Staffed by SU workers, students could sign up for wake up times so they don't miss class. Staff could monitor the

cubbies so nappers don't have to worry about having their stuff stolen. In a perfect world, perhaps the staff could even read and sing us to sleep, though that's something that could be worked out later.

Having the room staffed also prevents people from getting a little too friendly under the blankets. This would be an important feature as no one wants to nap next to one of those couples, and if they can't wait to get home to make love, they can use the bathrooms in Tory like the rest of us.

I've always been hesitant to nap on campus because I'm worried my stuff might get stolen or that I'll sleep through my class. A staffed nap room would remove these concerns and allow me to sleep easy as I dream about being attacked by integrals.

This is a very simple idea with so much potential that I'm surprised it hasn't been mentioned by VP (Student Life) candidates before. It's a fairly simple service that could start

out around finals and potentially be expanded to include all of fall and winter term if there was demand. There may be problems such as where would the room be located to make sure the largest number of students have easy access, hiring and training staff, and dealing with people who snore or don't wake up easily. But these are all issues that could be looked at by a feasibility study, and we all know how much the SU and other governments love taking credit for doing a study about a thing we might one day get.

It's hard to say if this wonderful and long overdue idea will ever take shape. But given that this is a service that's not currently offered by any group on campus, it would be nice to see a dear student leader champion this cause. If nothing else, it would be nice to sleep in a public space on campus where I won't run the risk of waking up with my face covered in Sharpie penises right before I have to run to class.

Soon-to-be grads need to keep their chins up



**Natahna
Barga**
THE SHEAF

For those of us in our final year of our undergraduate degrees, we're almost done the last semester and graduation seems to be rushing towards us.

This isn't a message for those of you who are graduating and have their whole life mapped out before them from the second they triumphantly whisk off their graduation robes — you know who you are. This is a message for the rest of us who are beginning to realize that graduation is a cliff we're about to jump off of and we were too optimistic, distracted, confident, lost or involved to realize the bottom might be filled with boulders.

To add insult to impending injury, everyone seems to care so much about how we plan to be a successful human being after graduation. They want to know how we plan to survive this colossal free fall jump.

For four or more years, people have been asking us the same question "What are you going to do?" They always say it with a sweet, interested smile spread across their face, but in the glint of their eye, we can see a reflection of our flailing, falling body. It convinces us that behind our back, these overly involved persons are slowly drumming their fingers together waiting for our inevitable failure.

The problem with this age-old

question of "What are you going to do?" asked by mainly well-intentioned people is that it tries to apply a formula to life. It makes the assumption that you know what'll happen in your life a year or five from now. While there are a select few people who this formula works for, you're probably not one of them. So, what is to be done about you?

First of all, it may be healthy to adopt the attitude of "Fuck everyone" for a while. As you fall from that graduation cliff, you're going to have people trying to catch and contain you with their advice and opinions. If that happens, listen to your own intuition. Don't panic or latch on to your first safety net. Learn to not care too deeply what other people think of you. Ultimately, you're the only person responsible for the outcome of your life. Know what you love and chase that — no matter what you believe people are saying about you in whispers.

Do you know what you love? Maybe you know your dream already or maybe you're learning what your dream is. Whichever the case, in the words of Oscar-winner Lupita Nyong'o, "Your dreams are valid."

These are hard words to remember if you're dealing with a recent graduate school or dream job rejection. They're hard words to remember if you have no sense of what direction to go in the pursuit of your dream. But your dreams are valid, and they're worth fighting for. They're worth going off the beaten path for. Your self-worth is not the sum of your successes and failures. It's how you react to and move forward from

these events in your life that prove your character.

This kind of relentless pressing on requires you to be a bit of an optimist. It requires you to crawl out of the safe womb of self-pity and allow yourself to be hopeful, confident and eager for all the opportunities and possibilities before you.

Perhaps there are those who graduate with you that seem to be living your dream more effectively than you are. While life isn't a formula, it's also not a competition. Find your own niche, make your own goals and do not allow the apparent success of others to cripple your own ambitions.

Your dreams continue to be valid even when they aren't being fully realized. Your dreams continue to be valid even when someone else seems to have your same dream. Your life will not be a straight path.

You will have obstacles, detours and doors closed in your face. To return to the falling metaphor, keep building your makeshift wings or your patchwork parachute. Pity the smug so-and-so's whose lives will not be as interesting as yours.

When your Plan A falls through, make a Plan B — and probably a Plan C and D. Try to give yourself a sense of direction, but don't smash to pieces when that direction inevitably changes.

Allow yourself to be an optimist. Believe in your intrinsic self-worth and acquired skills. Let life surprise you. Your life is not a formula and there are plenty of clever, intriguing ways to make it out of this cliff jump alive.

Facebook's acquisition of Oculus shouldn't cause rift

Under the wing of the social media giant, Oculus now has a chance to revolutionize the mass consumption of virtual reality



Joel Aspden
OPINION STAFF

Oculus VR — the virtual reality tech company responsible for developing Oculus Rift — agreed to be purchased by Facebook last week. While a select minority are seeing the benefits that come from such a change, the outcry from the most of the public has been a predictable bout of cruel and unjustified over-reaction.

The Rift is a virtual reality headset that allows users to immerse themselves in practically any environment they can dream up. The device uses binocular displays that cover the majority of your field of vision, allowing for stereoscopic 3D vision. It also utilizes gyros, accelerometers and magnetometers to accurately track the movement and location of your head in space. In combination with any type of controller and a pair of quality headphones, this technology has defined the next generation of immersive gaming and virtual reality.

Although it's still in development, a developer kit version of the headset can be purchased for \$350, and the final product — expected within the next year — is predicted to be similarly priced, if not less.

With the future success of this technology practically set in stone, it comes as no surprise that Facebook would soak-up Oculus VR for about \$1.6 billion in shares, \$400 million



DON'T BE SO MAD Facebook's acquisition can be a good thing for this technology.

SUPPLIED

in cash, plus an extra \$300 million upon "achievement of certain milestones." After all, other companies such as Sony and True Player Gear, a small start-up out of Montreal, have already joined the race for VR market domination.

Much of the controversy, however, comes from the fact that it was specifically Facebook that purchased the company. In fact, Markus "Notch" Persson,

creator of the popular sandbox game Minecraft, denounced the purchase and severed ties with Oculus VR, who he was partnering with on a future VR version on Minecraft. Additionally, a significant number of irate individuals have even issued death threats to Oculus VR employees, proving just how much this decision has polarized the public.

As a corporation with a history of questionable privacy policies and a

focus on social media, many others are worried that Facebook will corrupt the gaming-focused spirit of the Rift and turn it into some kind of corrupt social media experiment. Ultimately, the only lamentable truth of it all is that Oculus VR — a company whose vision of bringing high-quality, affordable VR was funded by thousands of crowdfunding supporters — will no longer have autonomy over their future

decisions. We all like to see the small guy win, but better business often takes precedence.

This move means the future of Oculus VR is brighter than it's ever been, and criticisms of the company's purchase are short-sighted. During the recent releases of the PlayStation 4 and Xbox One, it became clear that gaming and social media are already overlapping to a great degree, so it's no wonder Facebook wants a piece of this future technology. That doesn't mean Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg wants to insert status updates and newsfeed banners above every game we play. Instead, it's likely that Facebook wants to contribute to the future success of social gaming, but also wants to see these immersive experiences applied to broader purposes such as education and communications.

Zuckerberg has made it clear that he won't attempt to control Oculus VR, nor will the device require a Facebook account to use. Instead, it will provide a growing company with the resources and support they need to succeed in the face of gigantic competition.

As consumers, it's not even Oculus VR that we should care so much about, but rather virtual reality as a technology that's on the cusp of changing our lives for the better. To this end, believing that Facebook's acquisition of Oculus VR will cripple the future of virtual reality is irrational and short-sighted. We should be excited about the possibilities of Oculus Rift and about the world of possibility that Facebook is bringing to Oculus VR. Besides, two billion dollars doesn't sound like a bad deal.

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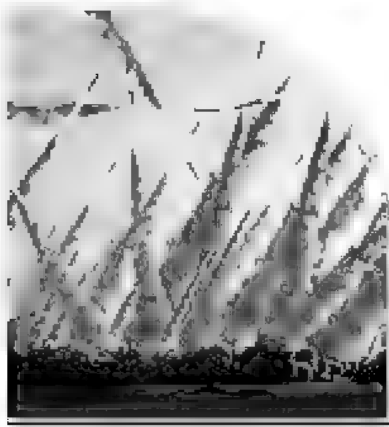
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A manifest of manes that should be made mandatory



Opinion Staff

GROUP COMMENTARY

Last week, it was rumored that men in North Korea would be required to have their hair cut in the style of Kim Jong-un. It turned out to just be untrue, but it got our inquisitive minds wondering about what hairstyles should be mandatory in Canada.

Kevin Schenk

It's pretty obvious that Canada's next Prime Minister will be Justin Trudeau. Since his success is based on his charming good looks, he should take a leaf out of Kim Jong-un's book and make his curls required by law — then every Canadian could be just as successful as him. His hairstyle has the additional benefit of being fairly gender-neutral, so we don't need to restrict the law to men like North Korea has.

Making Trudeau's hair a legal requirement would have the unintended consequence of providing a much needed stimulus to the perming industry. There would be lines out the door not seen since the '80s, as most people aren't blessed with his luscious locks.

Liberals are usually too busy taking away our freedom to care about things like the economy or creating jobs. The Hair Bill gives them a chance to create a new economy without having to destroy the environment to find natural resources.

Plus, we all get to look good.

Spencer Morrison

There comes a time in everyone's life when a choice must be made, and upon this single axis of reckoning

turns the fate of nations, and precariously balances precious life itself. It was reported that North Korea made their choice of national haircut, so let us make ours. I motion that we unilaterally adopt the grey powdered wig of 18th century fame as our national hairstyle.

First, we will put to rest the spectres of sex and age discrimination which haunt us relentlessly. Men and women, young and old, will share the same flowing silver locks. No longer will the woman with the buzz cut or the man whose hair has "body" suffer a case of mistaken identity. No longer will the young be barred from the stuffiest of governing circles, nor the old ostracized in the trendiest clubs. Instead, we'll be united in our hairstyle ambiguity.

Furthermore, powdered wigs are the hearkening death-knell of baldness and bald-related jokes, of bowl-cuts and mullets, of "Biebers" and "Trumps" and of any other dreadful haircut. The gods have given us this chance, so let's not waste it as our forefathers did centuries ago. Give me powdered wigs, or give me death.

Shannah Barros

If we're going to start enforcing one hairstyle, the obvious choice is the mullet. Honestly, I don't even know why it went out of style to begin with.

First of all, mullets are so versatile. Business in the front and a party in the back, they give you a sharp, professional edge for your morning meeting while still letting you whip your hair back and forth on the dance floor that night without having to hit up a hair salon in between. Mullets are also very practical. In our harsh Alberta climates, we need a hairstyle that can change as easily as the weather does. When it's -45 degrees with the windchill,



JUSTIN HAS SUCH BEAUTIFUL HAIR The other guy, not so much.

PHOTO MICHELLE MARK

you won't have to worry about not having a scarf — just wrap your long luscious locks around your neck and you'll be toasty warm. And in our sweltering two months of summer, a short-cropped fringe line won't hang a curtain of hair in your face, but will still leave you with a little extra in the back to wipe your brow with if needed.

If you're still not convinced, just think of all the money you'll save only have to get haircuts for the front of your head.

Many say mullets are trashy. I see them as economic.

Jeremy Cherlet

Most of you reading this are probably '90s kids, comprising a generation that's already experienced the greatest male hairstyle every created: frosted tips. As Zubaz, skateboard shoes and boy bands make their comeback — and they will — frosted tips aren't just a suggestion, they must be a requirement. The elegance and sportiness of this style, with its oh-so-sunkissed implication and tendency to push wearers towards gravity defying gel products, shouldn't be understated.

Back in the day, frosted tips were all that. But recently, they've been co-opted by the worst sort of people, and it's time to reclaim them from this notorious group: douchebags. As douchebags have taken up spray tans and wearing Ed Hardy, they also managed to find, or perhaps never lose, the oh-so-noble frosted tips. If everyone had frosted tips, they'd hopefully lose the douche connotation, putting them back in the '90s hall of excellence where they belong beside pokemon, super soakers and the east coast/west coast rap feud.



Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree or message us at www.gtwy.ca/threelinesfree

And then my eyes get so red, and what the hell is on joey's head
The 5 Days for the Homeless ppl take pictures all smiling and having a good time. It makes ppl think being homeless is fun or something.
I have now been on six outings that I discovered after the fact were supposed to be dates. Is it me, or is it them?
It's you
Butts
Kay bros, what's up with the fire trucks in the bus loop.... Week three
safety
We said someday we find out how it feels, to sing to more than just the steering wheel
I snorted caffeine powder. The end of term has come to this.
Selling Adderall in the Cameron library. Just look for the guy with the brown paper bag.
Sup
I FINALLY WATCHED IT BUT YOU AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION
I am tired, I am weary
Butt stuff
I'm not a fetish model! I just like fun and cameras!
AM180
Could everyone stop being talented for a bit? Like, just until I finish my degree, ideally?
I know that feeling, friend.
I Journeyed through the desert

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Unless you're a fucking baby boomer.
I wonder if it's too late, should I go back and try to graduate
Life's better than it was back then, if I was them I wouldn't let me in
The wind, the sky
the night, the sink
i love you but you stink
and you brush too loud
Things will never be the way you want it to be.
"I don't care if you're a fucking Charmander, you fucking call before you come over."
I feel like I'm write in the middle of my fat Elvis phase
Sounding.
Google it, I'll wait.
I try to hide from all my problems.
Little did I know My Problems were Hide & Seek pro champion 6 years running up in Idaho.
I fucked Ted....Mosby
If you tell anyone that that bush is there, i will come to your house and i will cut you
Putrid odour
Remember the old arcade, blew every dollar that we ever made
Marc Mais
Snap out of it.
Somebody please write my paper for me.
I know you
You're the one I've dreamt of.

No matter what you're told.
This is the cool dude stating this is last call for all the woman to come and see me at the Garneau Lounge near Cookies by George. I had a great year meeting many of you as of late. I will be here on Monday and Tuesday after 1pm, wish you luck.....
>Cool Dude
>Tries to score using 3lf
WRESTLING SHIRT FRIDAY.
What's that officer? Just watering the geroniums
Quebec pour la vie
Les africains sentent tres mauvais
I'm so sick of all this shit.
Testicules immense
I <3 Efukt
I'm falling way behind. Losing the pieces of my mind.
Enormous ejaculation
Currently accepting applications for 3Lf editor.
Does anyone ever get this right? I feel no love.
Shit on my dick
But what if it was more than just... smellz?
This is hair from pubis
Criminal record says I broke in twice, musta done it half a dozen times
This is where I grew up, the present owners musta fixed it up
Who are you to me
APRIL is the cruellest month
My name is Jonas

Who is John Galt?
I feel like I use my high IQ for the wrong things.
STEVE HOLT
Missed Connection: I'm looking to find myself. I feel I've spent this year in a haze, simply shuffling from one day to the next. If anyone knows where to find the old me please let me know.
This family hasn't seen whale meat in a onemonth.
He's bart
The cops hated us hangin out, they somebody went a burnt it down
We used to listen to the radio, we'd sing along with every song we'd know
Every memory of lookin out the back door, I got the photo album spread out on the bedroom floor
Shut up
Kalopsia
You're all a bunch of nberds. Why do I even bother coming to this crap ass school?
I like boobs a lot. I really can't get enough of them.
University: can't tell if it's killing me or making me stronger.
A shout-out to Evan and Matt: Stay handsome, you cheeky bastards.
Fuck guys shave your jungle pubes, i almost puke everytime i see 3 inch-ers in the urinal!!!
Thank you for finally bringing that up.

honey, your boyfriend likes anal. he doesn't think it's gross. youre naive.
To chicks who can't not dress up: its 8AM and your in Edmonton, get over it.
Dear Chelcie,
No Lip Slips
Sincerely, Your Shorty Shorts
Any girls around campus like guys with long hair?
nah. it looks gross
I never knew we ever went without, the second floor is hard for sneaking out
when there are so many other empty seats, why do you have to sit right next to me and put your stuff on top of my stuff? personal space!
im writing a novel
"fuckfuckfuckfuck"
ill call it, "Misery"
People - let others off the LRT BEFORE GETTING ON! It's the same thing as elevators!
You're so fucking depressing to be around sometimes. I can't stand it.
Sweatpants with high heels? I'm not sure I understand...
Bus driver, you saw me. I saw you. We made eye contact. I flagged you down. Why the hell did you not stop?
The Gateway reserves the right to refuse publication of any 3LF submission it deems racist, sexist, libellous, homophobic or otherwise hateful in nature.

Breaking Your Fall

Four years after its initial proposal, the University of Alberta's fall reading week comes to fruition

Written by **Michelle Mark** • Layout by **Anthony Goertz**

Four years ago, fall reading week was little more than a campaign promise made by a Students' Union presidential hopeful. As of Monday afternoon, it's a reality for University of Alberta students, who will get a full week away from the classroom starting in November, 2015.

The push for fall reading week stemmed from ongoing concerns regarding students' mental health on campus. Students' Union President Petros Kusmu said November is the month in which students are typically the most stressed, and the number of visits to the Mental Health Centre is at its highest.

"While fall reading week itself is not a silver bullet solution to issues like student retention, student mental health or student engagement, I feel like we can demonstrate that the University of Alberta is a national medium for supporting student success in well-being," Kusmu said at the signing ceremony on Monday.

"The week will allow students to take the time to catch up on their studies, take part in programming, work to afford school and visit family members outside of Alberta."

Kusmu said the SU will soon strike a task force to

examine the programming development possibilities. Since fall reading week won't take effect until the fall semester of 2015, students have a year and a half to plan ahead for optional workshops, lectures and programs.

"We're going to be including stakeholders from all over campus, talking about what the program should look like," he said.

"We already have some ideas up in the air about, let's say, offering various academic workshops on how to write essays, some mental health workshops."

Three of the last four SU presidents attended Monday's signing ceremony to show their solidarity with the proposal. Last year's president Colten Yamagishi said he and his predecessor had taken it through two rounds of university governance processes already, and was excited to see the SU's long-standing vision finally come to life.

"There was always just a few things that we just needed to fix together, and it was really nice to see (Kusmu) and his team get the touchdown and put the ball forward," he said.

"For me, I'm just excited. I think it's a big win for students."

The History of Fall Reading Week

Fall reading week ultimately came to fruition with a swish of the provost's pen. On Monday afternoon, four years of work, nearly 160 hours in total of meetings and consultations with almost 80 stakeholders came to a close as University of Alberta provost Carl Amrhein signed fall reading week into existence.

"Today, we celebrate what is perhaps, in the 10 years I've been at the University of Alberta, the clearest example of all those different groups coming together to define something that is clearly in the best interest of the faculty, students and staff at the university," Amrhein said.

"There would have been no project without the leadership from the Students' Union over the last several years."

But the simplicity of the provost's signature juxtaposes the complexity of the consultation process that occurred. The SU had taken various versions of the fall reading week proposal through a slew of administrators, faculty members and meetings over the last four years, balancing varying concerns around timing, instructional minutes and programming to eventually come to a compromise. Stakeholders included individuals and organizations — from Residence Services, International Student Services and University Wellness Services, to student councillors, governance committees and deans.

Crafting a week-long break around the university's notoriously complex academic calendar required nothing short of logistical gymnastics. Registrar Lisa Collins said it's highly unusual for student-led proposals that substantially affect the calendar to pass through governance. For Collins, the priority was to ensure the break didn't cut down on the required 63 instructional days.

"We wanted to make sure that we maintain the highest academic standards, and at the same time support the break for students, and support our students generally in the area of student mental health," she said.

"I really credit the hard work of the Students' Union in the care and

attention they paid during the consultation process."

Early fall reading week scenarios attempted to hold the week concurrently with October's Thanksgiving weekend, rather than in November, but stakeholders determined it would be too early in the semester to be beneficial to students. A late October scenario also wouldn't have worked, because it would have meant a loss in instructional minutes. The SU even toyed with the idea of splitting the break into two long weekends, rather than a full week, but eventually decided against it.

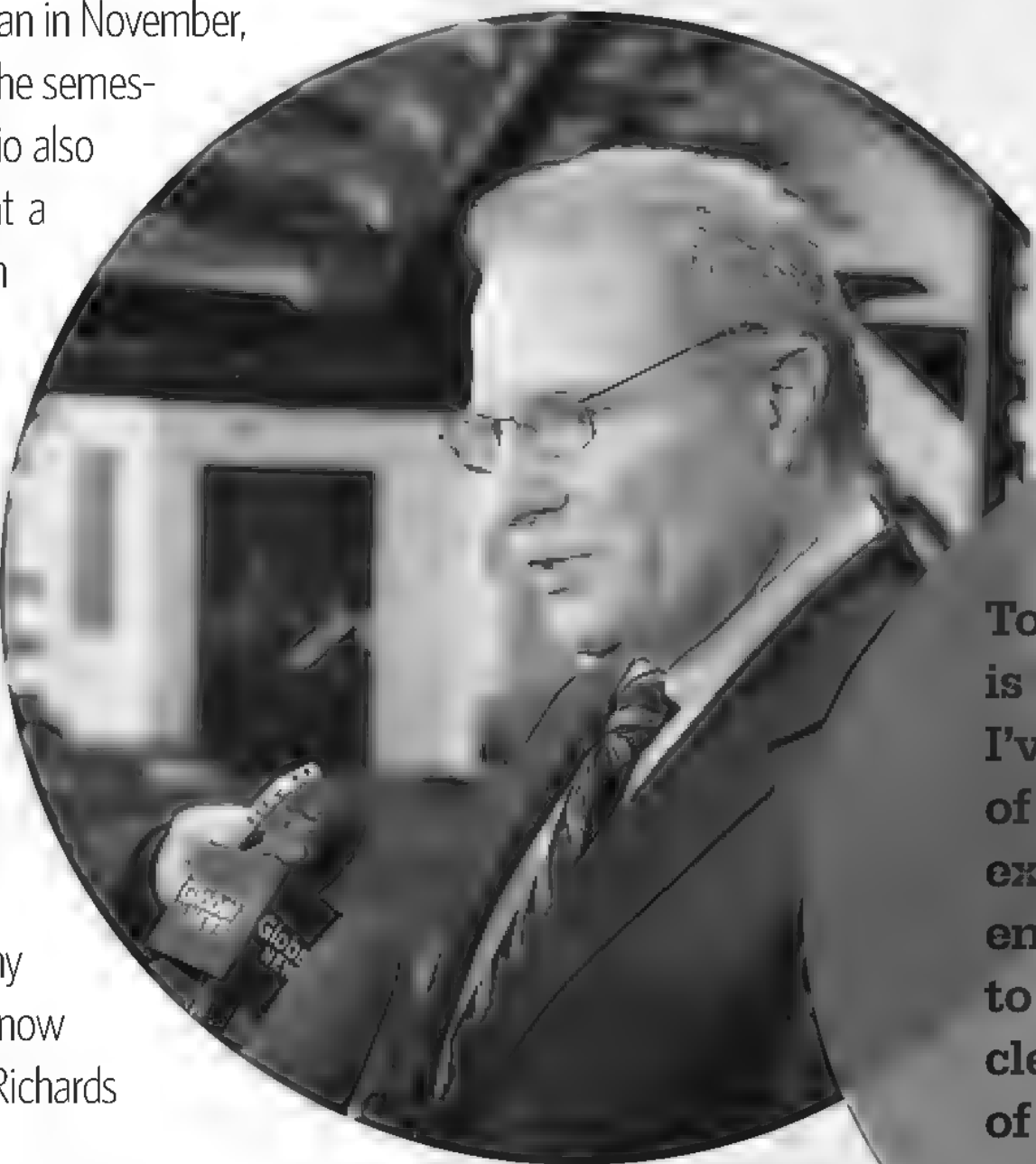
In February 2014, the SU presented the finalized fall reading week proposal to General Faculties Council, one of the university's highest governing bodies for student and academic affairs. But since the provost has complete authority on the matter, members were disturbed about GFC's lack of voting power on the motion.

"We don't get to vote on it, and I don't understand why GFC would not get to vote on a motion such as this. I know it's the rules, but I don't understand," member Jeremy Richards said at the meeting.

The members' concerns prompted the provost to put the proposal to GFC for an advisory vote at the next meeting, which received a resounding 92 per cent approval from GFC members. The motion was only to recommend that the provost approve the proposal, but Amrhein said the support of the academy was instrumental to his ultimate decision.

"It was not definitive — it was advisory," Amrhein said. "But it carried great weight."

"It made sense to me ... to take the proposal back to (GFC) to see what their thoughts on the value and the importance of the proposal were."



“Today, we celebrate what is perhaps, in the 10 years I’ve been at the University of Alberta, the clearest example of all those different groups coming together to define something that is clearly in the best interest of the faculty, students and staff at the university.”

Carl Amrhein
Provost, University of Alberta

FEBRUARY 2010
Students' Union presidential candidate Nick Dehod introduces the idea of a fall reading week to the student body as a platform point during his campaign.

MARCH 2011
Fall reading week's "worst-case scenario" proposal is taken to a student plebiscite and passes with 59 per cent in favour. The worst-case scenario would see students begin classes in August in most years.

MAY 2011
Provost Carl Amrhein strikes a task force to examine the logistics of implementing a fall reading week. The task force includes representatives from the SU and Graduate Students' Association, as well as representatives from the administration and General Faculties Council.

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CHANGES TO EXISTING ACADEMIC CALENDAR*

possible iterations of the University of Alberta's academic calendar currently exist — one for each of the seven weekdays Sept. 1 can fall. The fall reading week proposal includes seven different scenarios for each iteration, without ever losing instructional days or beginning classes before September.

The fall reading week proposal is navigated around the two-day Remembrance Day holiday in November. Scheduling the week concurrent with the holiday means only three days must be accounted for, rather than five.

To make space in the semester for a five-day fall reading week, the proposal includes three types of changes to the existing academic calendar: beginning classes earlier, occasionally ending exams later and occasionally extending the break between the end of classes and the start of exams.

When will start: One day earlier in 5/7 years
Three days earlier in 1/7 years
Four days earlier in 1/7 years
Classes will never start in August

Break between the end of classes and start of exams will:
Remain unchanged in 6/7 years
Be extended from one day to two days in 1/7 years

When will end: One day later in 1/7 years
Two days later in 3/7 years
Three days later in 1/7 years
Zero days later in 2/7 years

*Students' Union Green & Gold Week Governance Proposal

The proposal combats student isolation by committing to implementing activities and programming throughout the week.



CHALLENGES

Instructional minutes — Many were concerned that implementing a five-day break would mean losing time from the university's set number of 1,850 instructional minutes for Monday, Wednesday and Friday courses, and 2,080 minutes for Tuesday and Thursday courses, meaning that students would get less instructional time, but pay the same amount of tuition fees.

The proposal maintains the normal amount of instructional minutes by beginning classes earlier in September, and occasionally exams later in December.

November vs. October — Some critics argued that November is too late in the semester for a week-long break, but October is too early. To preserve instructional days, the proposal had to be concurrent with either October's Thanksgiving Day weekend or November's Remembrance Day holiday, and stakeholders agreed mid-October would be too early.

Consultations with students revealed that overall, students favour a late-October reading week, but would prefer a November reading week to no reading week at all.

lifeline and a means of social interaction, would be negatively impacted.

The proposal combats student isolation by committing to implementing activities and programming throughout the week. Preliminary ideas include activities from services such as Study Abroad, the Centre for Student Development and the Student Success Centre.

Student housing — Since fall reading week will push up the beginning of classes to an earlier date, some were worried that students renting accommodation would be forced to move in earlier, and be charged an extra month of rent.

The SU consulted with a number of landlords and confirmed that most will permit students to move in in late August without being charged for the extra month. The SU also noted that most students living in residence wouldn't be impacted, since the BaseCamp orientation program already takes place in late August.

Scheduling conflicts — Moving the start of classes to earlier in September affects the university's annual Orientation, but other manipulations to the academic calendar — such as eliminating the break between the start of classes and the end of exams — would impact other activities, like the December Butterdome Craft Sale.

The Orientation program will now require reconfiguration by the Centre for Student Development. Potential solutions include shortening the program, or extending it to a week in length, to coincide with Week of Welcome.

Student isolation — Some were concerned that nine consecutive days away from class would result in more mental health problems, not fewer. Dean of Students Frank Robinson was particularly worried that international students, who sometimes cling to classes as a



While fall reading week itself is not a silver bullet solution to issues like student retention, student mental health or student engagement, I feel like we can demonstrate that the University of Alberta is a national medium for supporting student success and well-being.

Petros Kusmu
President, University of Alberta
Students' Union

NOVEMBER 2013
SU survey shows 96 per cent of students are in favour of implementing a fall reading week during the Remembrance Day week in November.

MARCH 2014
General Faculties Council votes 92 per cent in favour of recommending the provost approve fall reading week.

MARCH 2014
Provost signs off on fall reading week.

Arts & Culture

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Volunteer

A & C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m.
in 3-0 4, SUB. C'mon by!

social intercourse

COMPILED BY Paige Gorsak

University of Alberta Mixed Chorus 70th Annual Spring Concert

Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m.
Winspear Centre (4 Sir Winston Churchill Square)
Tickets \$15 for students from tixonthesquare.ca
or InfoLink

Founded in 1944 by a music-loving medical student, the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus is an on-campus collective of songbird students. The troupe, which features more than 130 members, performs around the country and concludes their year with an annual concert. Training alongside the choir and performing with them is the Handbell Ringers, a campus group of white-gloved bell and chime performers that's renowned in North America. This musical feast is an opportunity to hear your fellow students belt out tunes to celebrated musical works from Broadway to Brahms. Commemorating a prodigious anniversary, this year's concert will also play host to an evening reception and nostalgia session including photos and videos from the past seven decades.

Peep Show: U of A Bachelor of Design Graduate Show 2014

Runs until Saturday, April 12; opening reception
Thursday, April 3 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
FAB Gallery, University of Alberta
Gallery admission is free

To celebrate their handiwork over their degrees, the University of Alberta Bachelor of Design Graduating Class of 2014 is coming together to present a final exhibition. Hanging in FAB gallery until exams begin, Peep Show is a delightful display of the designs of 30 students in the program, and will feature works such as nifty stools, cutlery sets, electronic products and paper conference packages. Handcrafted and lovingly created, these pieces are as cunning in design as they would be in use. Visit the class' highly polished website at peepshow2014.ca for more information on the event, the artists and the items that will be on display.

Escape Velocity and other works

Presented by Undercurrent Theatre
Facilitated and directed by Nikki Shaffeeullah
Starring Saima Butt, Neelam Chattoo, Aliya Jamal, Rebecca John and Natalian Knowlton
Runs until Sunday, April 6 at various times
Azimuth Theatre (11315 106 Ave.)
Admission pay-what-you-can

Talking about gender-based violence can be hard, and finding a way to respectfully portray lived experiences on stage is even harder. But this week, locally based Undercurrent Theatre takes on the challenge with a mandate to explore themes and stereotypes surrounding the issue. As part of a week-long festival, the artist-activist ensemble is presenting a theatre piece called *Escape Velocity* and a number of other performing arts pieces. The principal piece confronts intimate gender violence and radicalized stereotypes of violence. It's creation involved discussions with community members such as police officers, social workers, artists and others to best represent lived experience of love and violence. The festival's other inclusions consist of four performance shorts and an installation called *Colonial Cravings*.



KATHERINE SPEUR

Local roller derby invites women of all ages, backgrounds to play hard

LOCAL PROFILE

E-Ville Roller Derby

WHEN > Next game Saturday, April 12 at 6 p.m.
WHERE > The Edmonton Sportsdome (10104 32 Ave.)
HOW MUCH \$10 at brownpapertickets.com

Kieran Chrysler

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @CHRYSLERRR

Walking into the Edmonton Sportsdome once a month on Saturdays, you will find a massive concrete space, full of people of all ages being dodged by athletic women in helmets and roller skates. After finding a seat alongside more than 100 spectators sipping a local beer the announcers have coaxed you into buying, the game begins. Announcers call out the team rosters, going down the list from ABBA Cadaver to ZZ Topless. The game that begins is a great demonstration of balance, strength and full-contact female intensity. Women attempt to dodge or crash into each other, constantly lapping a circle, all while keeping impressive control on four wheels. The sport is flat-track roller derby, and you'll be hooked by the end of the first jam.

The sport has been gaining popularity over the last few years, largely thanks to 2009's *Whip It*, the film chronicling a pageant girl (Ellen Page) who joins a derby league, triggering her inspiring coming-of-age story.

However, local E-Ville derby players Quinlyn Hawkswell and Jennifer Wanke, better known as Bloody Cooper and Wonky Kong on the derby circuit, scoff at the film's portrayal of the sport.

"One of E-Ville's slogans is we promote the spectacle but we play the sport. *Whip It* is not a sport, it's a spectacle. The new incarnation of flat track derby, it's a sport, with rules, regulations and nothing is staged," Wonky Kong, a University Of Alberta employee, says.

"There's no elbows to the face. They don't get away with that stuff (in real games)," Bloody Cooper, a second year U of A education student, adds. "(But) it's accurate in the way that it's a bunch of different women coming together. Other than that, *Whip It* isn't very accurate."

In the game of roller derby, two teams play against each other in hour-long matches. Each team has five players on the track at one time,

with one player being the jammer. The jammer tries to pass all the other players and lap around the track, and gains points by passing other players within a two and a half minute "jam." The rest of the team on the track try to block the other jammer and help theirs get through.

E-Ville is one of two roller derby leagues in Edmonton, having split from Oil City Derby Girls in 2007. An all-women's league, they consist of 40 women ranging in age from 18 to 47 playing on three different house teams, plus a travel team. The travel team, who travel to play derby in other cities, is made of players pulled from all the teams in the league. If you're of the male persuasion and looking for a team — Oil City Derby Girls has both men's and co-ed teams. Alternatively, if you're looking to get involved with E-Ville and not play, you can volunteer as a referee or refreshment vendor.

Because *Whip It* is the first exposure many have to derby, it's easy to think the sport is a female fight club featuring mini-skirts and fishnets. But Wonky Kong says fights rarely happen, as there are many rules against intentional, aggressive hits to protect players.

"We have a strong code of conduct, it's the one thing we don't tolerate at all. It would deteriorate the sport."

Roller derby is obviously full contact, so injuries are to be expected as with any contact game. But the violent perception of the sport is something the players are trying to change. Injuries pull players from benches, so minimizing long-term recurring injuries is key. Knowledge about how to take and make safe hits in games is crucial, as this reduces avoidable injuries.

"Concussions take a lot of girls out of derby. We do as much concussion awareness as possible because even minor concussions people don't realize, they don't treat them," Wonky Kong says.

The E-Ville league has a training process to ease in new players and help them learn the rules of the game before they get drafted to one of the house teams. The "Fresh Meat" program teaches new recruits how to skate and how to hit, and when they pass a set of requirements, they become "Raw Zombies," moving to a probationary period where they practice with the teams and hone their skills. It's an experience of learning-by-doing, notes new player and third year U of A arts student Arianna Biasini (Lana del Rage). Older players take on leadership roles

to help new players adjust.

"In practice scrimmage, they try to split us up with the veterans so it's not unbalanced," she says. "I have yet to have an experience where it's like, 'Oh, we don't want them on our team because they're new and aren't as good as us yet.'"

Because all of the 40 women in the league practice together, the Raw Zombies interact with all the players and improve while becoming part of the league's team environment.

"It's really welcoming and really encouraging. They're really nice and if you're not sure about something they're happy to help you out and provide really positive feedback," Lana del Rage says.

The camaraderie and positive energy circulates through E-Ville, cementing the welcoming atmosphere for new players. An interesting aspect of derby is that there's no "suggested body type," as is sometimes the case in other sports. Because of the different positions, all body types are valued and useful, as someone very small makes a good jammer, and a bigger person makes a more effective blocker. The regard for all women in the sport intensifies friendships and urges players to help each other improve and refine their skills.

Derby also welcomes women from all walks of life, giving more depth to the house team personas. The Berzerkheres are vikings, Las Pistolitas are cholas and the Slice Girls are glam rockers. While the atmospheres of the teams change from year to year as players come and go, every one brings something to the team that adds a layer of personality.

"Some people join for the social element. Some people join because they hate the gym," Wonky Kong says. "Some people are aggressive, some people are more calm — the interesting thing that I love is that everyone joins for a different reason."

What started as a spectacle of women in short skirts hitting each other has transformed into much more. Roller derby is constantly evolving, both with rules and how the players interact with the game. Bloody Cooper relishes in the empowerment that's being revealed, as the layers of fishnets and spectacle are being pulled back and the game becomes a true sport.

"We're moving away from the theatrics and the tiny shorts and trying to make it sexy," she says. "Like no, we're trying to be athletes."



ROBERT WORKMAN

Edmonton Opera celebrates its 50th year with *Madama Butterfly*

THEATRE PREVIEW

Madama Butterfly

MUSIC BY Giacomo Puccini, Libretto by L. Illica and G. Giacosa; sung in Italian with English supertitles

DIRECTED BY Tim Albery

STARRING Anne Sophie Duprels, John Fanning and Luciano Ganci

WHEN Runs Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 8 and Thursday 10 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 Ave.)

HOW MUCH Tickets \$40 - \$145 at tixonthesquare.ca

Michael Vecchio

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

Fifty years ago, Giacomo Puccini's iconic *Madama Butterfly* graced the stage at the Edmonton Opera as the first production in their premiere season. Half a century later, the production is back, and 50 years of singing are celebrated in a nostalgic return to the company's historic inception.

From its humble origins in October 1963, Edmonton Opera has grown into one of the leading opera companies in Canada, attracting singers of international acclaim to star in its productions. While the company itself is still young, its presence in Edmonton is a testament both to the popularity of opera and the dedication of those who brought the art form to Alberta's capital.

"Fifty years is all relative, it's a blink of an eye really in history. But it's been a labour of love from the beginning to continue the operatic tradition in Edmonton," Tim Yakimec, General Manager of Edmonton Opera, says.

Though the performance of opera has a long and storied international history, it has, like most art forms, fought to stay relevant. To some, opera may seem stuffy, intended only for socialites and hardly relevant to contemporary audiences when much of it was written more than 200 years ago. But Yakimec insists it's all a matter of perspective.

"I don't think that stuffy opera

exists — there can be a version of that, (but) it depends on how you approach it. I think opera is always relevant because if you go for the truth, there's that shared connection," he says. "If you approach the work or production in a truthful manner to make that connection happen, I don't think it's really stuffy. It's about getting past that first perception."

Certainly the first 50 years of Edmonton Opera has been about establishing that connection and breaking down negative perceptions, which the company will continue to do with *Madama Butterfly*, one of the most popular and frequently performed operas in the world. Unlike earlier works of opera which were often based on mythology or some moral religious setting, Puccini's operas dealt with more realistic, gritty scenarios and characters that are easy to identify with. If presenting opera in a truthful manner is important to connect with the audience, then surely Puccini's masterpiece is just the work to do so.

Written in 1904 and based on the short story *Madama Butterfly* by John Luther Long, the opera tells the story of B.F. Pinkerton, a lieutenant in the US Navy stationed in Japan. It's there he meets and falls in love with a young geisha named Cio-Cio San, whom he calls Butterfly. Despite a proposal and eventual marriage, Pinkerton regards their romance as a temporary fling and leaves Butterfly behind upon returning to America. Three years later, Pinkerton returns to Japan to a heartbroken Butterfly, who's been anxiously awaiting his return all while raising their child on her own. With an American wife on his arm, the Lieutenant attempts to take possession of their child, leaving Butterfly to make a heart-wrenching and tragic decision.

For director Tim Albery, who comes to Edmonton after previously producing this production in London, *Madama Butterfly* has a mass appeal not necessarily found in other operas — not solely because of its story of love and heartbreak, but also because of its music.

"(Puccini) writes incredibly approachable music that isn't difficult in the way that Wagner or Verdi (are) acquired tastes," Albery explains. "This is full on, in-your-face music

that you can immediately go with — you don't have to have any knowledge of classical music to say, 'This is really wonderful.'"

Puccini, who lived from 1858 to 1924, stands as one of the greatest operatic composers the world has ever seen, and his melodies and arias are widely celebrated and known to nearly all, even those who don't attend the opera.

"Puccini was an incredible showman," Albery says. "His skill in writing was amazing. The little twists and turns in his operas are so well thought through and he has a real flare for telling a story in a really clever theatrical way, yet it's still quite honest. He probably would be writing musicals if he were alive."

But once Edmonton Opera's anniversary production of *Madama Butterfly* is finished, what does the future of Edmonton Opera and opera in general hold? Yakimec and Albery agree it's difficult to foresee where exactly a constantly evolving art form like opera will head, but Albery is optimistic about the company's future.

"Live performance will never die. Whether we'll still be watching opera in 50 years time, who knows, but I think we'll still be performing live and having that shared experience of seeing theatre live. It doesn't have to be an endless recycling of 19th century repertoire. We can say that this art form (opera) has a future now in the present."

If the last 50 years are any indication, then there's much to look forward to when it comes to seeing high calibre opera performances in Edmonton. *Madama Butterfly* will rightfully serve as the crown for the past 50 years of great seasons that have enriched Edmonton's art scene, as well as an excellent introduction for those who have yet to experience the powerful narrative of the opera.

"When I was offered to direct an opera for the first time, I had only ever been once and it was pretty terrible," Albery says with a laugh. "But eventually I became inveigled with it and loved it and I think the same thing happens with audiences. It's often just that first step that people need to make."

There's certainly no better time to take that first step than with Puccini's masterwork.

fashion streeters

COMPILED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY Alexandros Papavasiliou

Moni Holowach

ALES II



GATEWAY: Describe what you're wearing.

MONI: I'm wearing a lot of brown neutral tones. My bag is from Montreal, scarf is from Thailand, shoes from Posh shoes and the rest is just basic pieces.

GATEWAY: Do you have any celebrities or designers that influence your style?

MONI: For me, it's more of a seasonal inspiration. My style depends on what time of year it is, and I dress accordingly. I love this scarf though, I can wear it in any season.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

Bonfire Festival experiments with longer form improv

THEATRE PREVIEW

Bonfire Festival

WHEN > Tuesday, April 8 – Saturday, April 12 at various times
WHERE > The Citadel Theatre (9828 101A Ave.)
HOW MUCH > Weekday tickets \$10, weekend tickets \$12, festival passes \$25; at tixonthesquare.com

Brad Kennedy
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @HELLA_BRAD

By definition, all improv theatre is something you’ve never seen before. But Rapid Fire Theatre’s Bonfire Festival takes the already unpredictable nature of improv and abstracts it yet again through a series of entirely new formats.

Created three years ago to showcase the local talent of RFT’s player ensemble, Bonfire presents a variety of long-form improv productions, many of which are developed specifically for the festival. Amy Shostak, RFT’s Artistic Director, says Bonfire will contain things even the most veteran audience members will be pleasantly surprised by.

“If someone’s used to seeing our Theatresports shows on Fridays, this would be something that would be probably outside of the realm of what they’ve seen before in terms of what defines improv in their minds,” Shostak says. “I think it’ll still be a really entertaining show for them, but I think it will be things they aren’t expecting.”

The long-form shows featured in

Bonfire are much lengthier than traditional improv scenes, which typically only run for a minute or two of brief, spontaneous comedy before changing tracks entirely. Instead, the types of performances audiences can expect to find at the festival will be complete and coherent story lines, with characters and narratives of a much greater complexity. The ideas for the shows are pitched by members of RFT’s ensemble and compiled into a list of potential programming earlier in the year. Then, Shostak handpicks the selection of different improv styles to be featured, and the ensemble divides itself into different casting groups to begin workshoping their individual formats.

■ **“(You) get to see performers taking risks, and that’s really exciting. And of course, improv in itself is risky.”**

AMY SHOSTAK
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, RAPID FIRE THEATRE

The way the festival is set up, she explains, involves trying to make sure every performer gets a chance to both act and direct if they’d like. This ensures that both novice members — those who have been performing for only a year or two — and the veteran performers — some of whom have been with RFT for 20 years — get to explore the various aspects of creating a brand-new long-form improv show.

Just because the task is open to novice group members doesn’t mean it’ll be easy, though. There’s a

large difference between the short, punchy scenes of traditional improv games and the sprawling interconnected narratives that’ll be featured in Bonfire’s long-form programming. The predetermined groups of performers featured in the festival have been preparing for quite some time to make sure that they’re able to rise to the occasion, and if they can pull it off, it’ll make for some excellent improvisational theatre.

“(You) get to see performers taking risks, and that’s really exciting. And of course, improv in itself is risky. You know, if you see one of our regular Friday night shows, there’s still inherent risk in performers doing short-form Theatresports,” Shostak says.

“But here, I think people are really passionate about the projects they’re directing, so these shows will be kind of crafted, and ... a lot of love is put into these shows. Because it’s everyone’s individual ideas that they’re crafting for the audience.”

With programming that runs the gamut from Bruce Springsteen-inspired comedy to an on-the-spot Wes Anderson movie, Bonfire stretches the limits of what improv shows can offer. Some daring performers even take to the stage alone, weaving complex one-man mythologies or pitting the two halves of their mind against each another. The variety alone is impressive enough to make checking the full list of summarized shows — available on RFT’s Facebook page — well worth your time, as it’s the only opportunity you’ll have to peek at the routines that don’t fit into the rest of RFT’s regularly scheduled performances.



SUPPLIED: ANDREW PAUL

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Invention of Romance opens minds, warms hearts

Latest La Cité Francophone production explores the meaning of love through our prejudices and expectations about romance

THEATRE REVIEW

The Invention of Romance

WHEN Runs until Sunday, April 13; Tuesday – Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinées at 2 p.m.

WHERE > La Cité Francophone (8627 91 St.)

WRITTEN BY > Cassi Massing

DIRECTED BY > Tracy Carroll

STARRING > Lora Brovald, Mat Busby and Valerie Ann Pearson

HOW MUCH > \$22 for students (evening shows) or \$11 for matinées; pay what you can on Tuesdays

Sarah Culkinn

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER ■ @SAERRAHS

As Haddaway has been asking since 1993, “What is love? Baby don’t hurt me no more.” Unsurprisingly, we still don’t have a concrete answer for him. The nature of love and romance has been questioned and analyzed for centuries, with no real breakthroughs. Workshop West’s production of *The Invention of Romance* is a clever romp of a rom-com that doesn’t pretend to answer the age-old question, but does play with the differences between theory and practice.

The set-up plays a little with the traditional boy-meets-girl formula.

Kate is a museum curator in her mid-30’s, wearied by the song-and-dance of relationships after breaking up with a serious boyfriend. James is a junior archivist and starry-eyed romantic, apparently in an ideal marriage. The two find themselves working together on the latest museum exhibit — to be based around an ancient codex on courtly love — that will explore the construction of romance through the ages. When the plan to feature the manuscript falls through, Kate and James are left in the lurch, needing to scrape together an exhibit in less than a month without a piece to tie everything together, and no real working definition for what constitutes “love.”

Life begins to imitate art as Kate flings herself back into the dating pool “for research,” and her 79-year-old mother, Louisa, rekindles a romance put on hold 60 years ago. Through disastrous first dates, daydreams, phone calls and introspection, Kate begins to realize that maybe love isn’t something you can define, analyze and stick in a display case. Sometimes there’s no lightning flash or “Perfect Man.” As Louisa puts it, “Sometimes love can be quite ordinary.”

Cassi Massing’s script is refreshingly light and cheeky, but tells an honest story about connection in an age so far removed from the times of the lute-bearing wooer. The poignancy of Louisa’s romantic subplot is accentuated by the fact that it’s based on true events: Massing’s mother revived the

relationship she had had with a co-star in a play 60 years ago. As a result, Massing started asking herself questions about what we think love should look like, and why we think romance loses its edge with age. Though the events of the play focus on Kate’s romantic life, Louisa serves as a gentle reminder that there’s no one right time and place to fall in love.

In *Kate*, Massing has created a *Bridget Jones*-esque character, complete with her admiration for Colin Firth. Simultaneously a cynic and idealist, Kate serves as narrator and protagonist, engaging the audience through monologues and asides, which draw you in like a fourth character in the show. Lora Brovald is absolutely charming in the role, playing Kate with terrific energy, comedy and tenderness. Valerie Ann Pearson as Louisa and Mat Busby as Man/James are equally delightful, contributing their charged stage presence and sense of the comedic.

Despite a heftier run-time — nearly three hours, including intermission — the dialogue is smooth, fast-paced and witty, with the story told in bite-sized scenes that keep the audience completely absorbed. Here, Workshop West has artfully demonstrated that the stage isn’t exclusively a space for dark theatrics or sobering subjects, but can equally host light-hearted narratives that make you think even as you laugh. There’s a little bit of Kate in all of us, and that’s what makes her story so appealing.



SUPPLIED

Walterdale Playhouse stages classic parody of Roman theatre

THEATRE PREVIEW

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

MUSIC AND LYRICS > Stephen Sondheim

BOOK BY > Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

STARRING > Kyle Thulien, Kelsey Visscher, Connor Meeker and Jordan Ward

WHEN > Runs until Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m., Sunday, April 6 matinée at 2 p.m.

WHERE > Walterdale Playhouse (10322 83 Ave.)

HOW MUCH > \$14 Tuesday, second Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday matinées; \$16 opening night, Friday and Saturday; available at tixonthesquare.com or the Box Office one hour prior to show

Brad Kennedy

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @HELLA_BRAD

There’s perhaps no better-known Broadway comedy in history than Stephen Sondheim’s *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. The show’s farcical depiction of the everyday citizens of ancient Rome has long stood the test of time as one of the most venerable and hilarious plays to ever grace the stage. Now, after a long absence, the production has returned to Edmonton at the Walterdale Playhouse, and the community theatre group bringing this beloved musical back to our city couldn’t be more excited to work with such a well-known theatrical piece.



CHRISTINA VARVIS

The play follows a day in the life of Pseudolus, a shrewd and cynical Roman slave obsessed with the possibility of earning his own freedom. When Pseudolus learns that his master, the young Hero, has fallen in love with a courtesan in the house next door, he hatches a plan to bring the young woman into the arms of his smitten owner, thus currying enough favour to be freed. But in typical slapstick fashion, the best-laid plans of the bumbling protagonist are derailed at every possible juncture, leading to a series of madcap mix-ups that have entertained audiences around the globe for more than 50 years.

Kyle Thulien, who plays the lead

role of Pseudolus, says that the show’s success comes from its universal appeal.

“It’s not an overly complicated story,” Thulien says. “So it allows the audience to really just get it and enjoy the characters and the situations that they’re in. I think that’s what makes most of the comedy, is just being able to catch everything that’s going on.”

Despite its simplicity, the history of such a successful and popular play can be daunting for those who perform it, especially in the shadows of classic Broadway actors such as Zero Mostel and Nathan Lane, both of whom earned Tonys for their performances in the role of Pseudolus.

The pressures of such an intense role are heavy, but Thulien doesn’t let them get to him.

“What I love about comedy is it’s all about the comedian. So I really have to try not to copy what I’ve seen, copy what is done, but do what I think is funny as a performer in this particular production,” he says. “I’m really drawn to that fact that I can really make this character mine and use my style of comedy for the role, and make it different than what you may have seen in the past.”

Indeed, the Walterdale performance is sure to be interesting, set as it is in a much smaller and intimate theatre rather than the

traditional Broadway stage. The density of the stage lends strength to the production, resulting in a very detailed and well-designed set, since technicians don’t have to work on the scale of a larger theatre. Thulien also insists that the close-up atmosphere will make the show more fun for everyone involved.

“With a space like the Walterdale — I mean there’s only what, five rows? You are face to face with the comedy,” Thulien says, grinning at the prospect. “It’s this beautiful relationship between the actor and the audience where they really feed off each other; when we do something funny and they laugh, we immediately get that response, and we can immediately respond back with feeding them the type of comedy they’re enjoying.”

“What I love about comedy is that it’s all about the comedian. So I really have to try not to copy what I’ve seen, copy what is done, but do what I think is funny as a performer in this particular production.”

KYLE THULIEN
ACTOR

Between the closely packed atmosphere of the performance and the comedy-packed language of the script, there’s enough humour in the production to keep you laughing throughout the evening. Whether you prefer slapstick or punchlines, disguises or pantomimes, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* is a timeless example of the art of comedy.

Obscure Netflix finds that are worth your time



Arts & Culture Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

When scanning the thousands of TV shows, films and documentaries on entertainment aggregates like Netflix, it's easy to be overwhelmed — and that's just with the shows you've already heard of. This week, three Gateway writers delved into the wacky world of Netflix to find some picks worth watching. Just in time for exam procrastination, of course.

Into the Abyss (2011)

Centered on the investigation of a triple homicide in Texas, this documentary looks past the brutality of the crime and into the mind of the criminal. In *Into The Abyss*, filmmaker Werner Herzog interviews the victims' families and 28-year-old death row inmate Michael Perry, offering an intimate look into why people kill and whether capital punishment is suitable. Despite the heavy topic, the film delicately unveils the humanity within the convicted murderer as he awaits his scheduled death — a mere eight days after his interview for the film.

Herzog's stance against capital punishment is evident early on, and guides the film's ultimate question of whether the state should have the power to end an inmate's life. A

heart-wrenching interview with a state executioner supports Herzog's thesis and provides an empathetic perspective on capital punishment. The film is honest and compelling in its handling of the correctional system, leaving the viewer pondering the urgency of human life.

— Andrea Ross

The Man From Nowhere (2010)

There are a lot of great action films coming out of Asia, but few of them are on Netflix. One that has made its way there is South Korean film *The Man from Nowhere*. Its synopsis sounds like a typical action movie where the hero beats up a few dozen gangsters: a mysterious pawn shop owner befriends a young girl and when she's kidnapped, he sets out for revenge.

But there's more to the film than that. I found myself caring about the plot and characters thanks to the well-written story and believable acting. Some of the villains were cool enough that I wished they'd have survived for a sequel. The film is shot with an incredible attention to detail, from the lighting to the choreography for a brutal knife fight. The translation also never feels awkward, something a fair number of foreign films could stand to learn from.

A word of warning: if this film leaves you wanting more, don't watch *A Company Man*, another Korean action film on Netflix. Unlike *A Man from Nowhere*, it's completely unbelievable and sloppily executed. Instead, I recommend checking out Indonesian film

The Raid: Redemption. If you've exhausted the good Hollywood action movies on Netflix, don't bother with mediocre sequels or knock-offs. Instead, try a foreign film like *A Man from Nowhere*. You might discover a world you didn't even know existed.

—Kevin Schenk

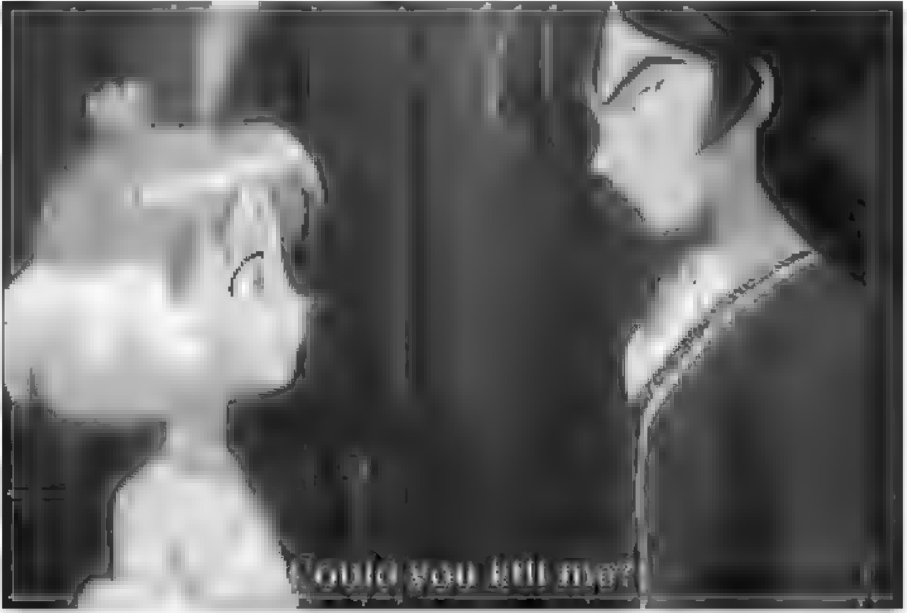
Princess Tutu (2002-2003)

The oddest TV series I've ever found on Netflix is an animated English-dubbed show called *Princess Tutu*. This series is a meta-fictional tale about a famous author, Drosselmeyer, who writes a story about characters called Prince Mytho and The Raven who are locked in an epic battle. Unfortunatley, Drosselmeyer is murdered before he can finish the story and Prince Mytho and The Raven escape into the real world. Princess Tutu is the heroine of the series who originates as a duck and is transformed into a human with a magical necklace.

So by now, this anime probably seems totally weird. And to be fair, it is. But it's also way more complicated and enthralling than you might think. There are many details about the plot and characters that can be missed upon your first viewing. In addition, the clever mystery behind Drosselmeyer's identity is one viewers won't solve until they've seen the series through.

In a mysterious twist of fate, *Princess Tutu* has been removed from Netflix, but perhaps, like Raven and Prince Mytho, it'll escape into the real (Netflix) world again.

— Nicola Flynn



SUPPLIED

Between the Buns: experimenting with fast food and the Hotel Mac



Burger Boys
GROUP COMMENTARY

After an entire term of sampling Edmonton's finest local burgers, this week our Burger Boys have finally sold out. Instead of seeking out the lesser-known diners and burger joints in the City of Champions, our reviewers shovelled money towards soulless, corporate entities to discuss the cheap thrills of burgers so generic — yet so delicious — they could be found almost anywhere in Canada. All except one, that is. Adrian went swanky at Edmonton's fanciest: the Hotel MacDonald.

Fatburger

Let's face it, multinational chain fast food restaurants are a dime a dozen. Big Macs are undoubtedly superior to Whoppers, but the actual difference between the two is minimal enough that it's hardly worth arguing about. When you feel the need to fork money over to a soulless corporation for the immediate gratification of a relatively quick burger, don't settle for McDonald's, Wendy's or Burger King. Instead, look for options that are just a little bit better.

That doesn't mean wasting your time at Five Guys for a depressingly average burger and a bag filled with more fries than you could ever realistically even want in one sitting.

No, the pinnacle of fast-food burgers is at the self-proclaimed "Last Great Hamburger Stand," Fatburger.

This title is well-deserved and Fatburger's reputation precedes itself. After hearing about the quality of this burger joint for months, the first time I bit into a Fatburger was like being struck by Cupid's arrow. Things got hot and heavy as I finished off this beautiful burger, and walking away, I felt changed by this particular meal. But that could've just been my completely full stomach making me feel like I was newly pregnant.

The available toppings to build your own burger aren't as varied as other restaurants, but the burger patties themselves are delicious, juicy and filling enough to completely earn

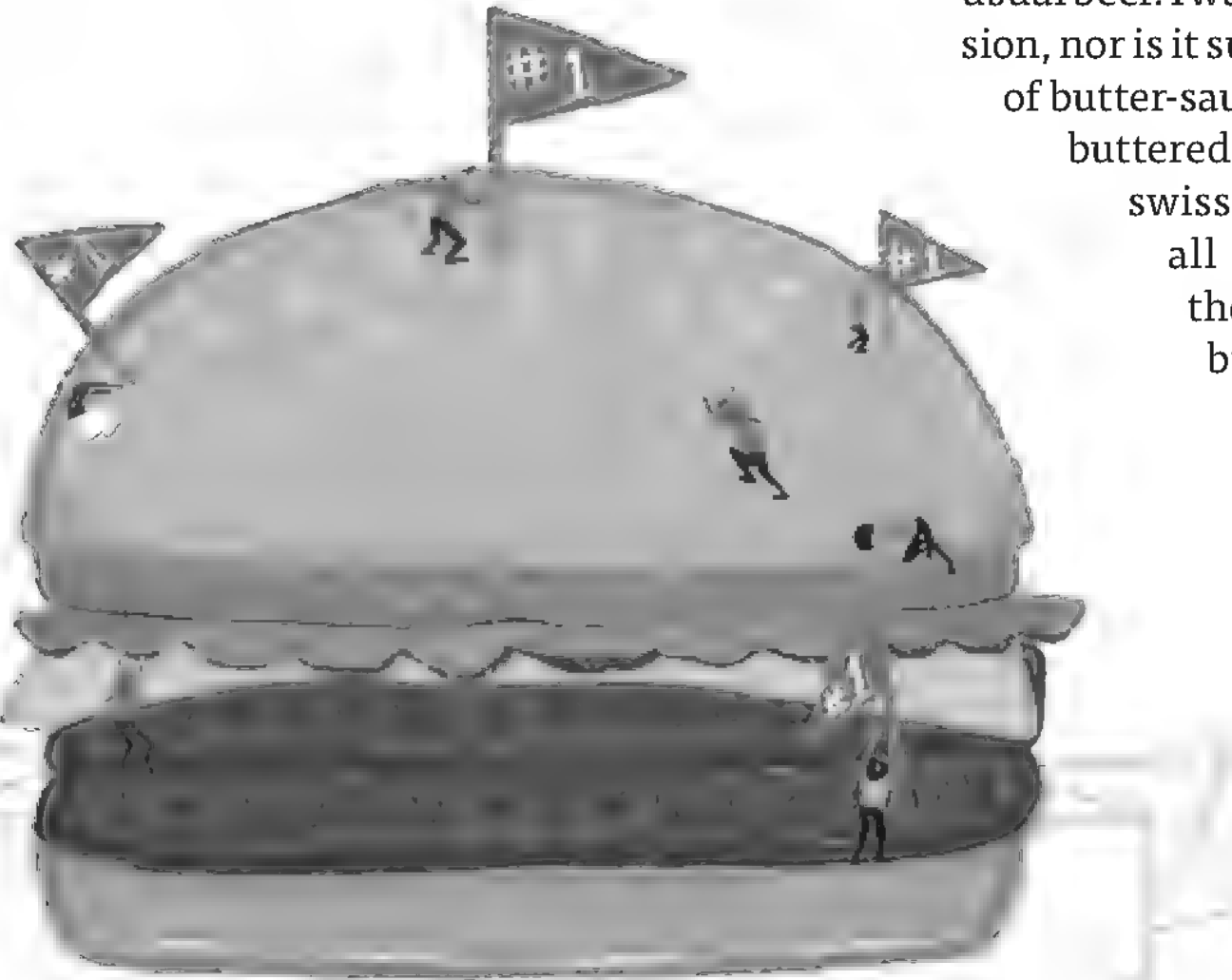
your money. And when it comes to their specialty burgers, the Old Style Bacon Cheddar Burger offers a classic combo of toppings and sauces that are perfected with the addition of Fatburger's glorious, fresh burgers. If you're looking for that special, greasy fast food burger joint to complete your life, look no further than the Last Great Hamburger Stand Vying for Your Heart: Fatburger.

— Andrew Jeffrey

Continental Lounge

One of Edmonton's classiest landmarks, the Hotel Macdonald is sometimes forgotten as a food establishment since most of the population have little reason to visit ritzy local hotels. However, the restaurant is home to the fancy Continental Lounge. Over the course of this review series, my expectations for burgers have gone up, and I wasn't sure if the Continental Lounge's offerings would live up to the challenge, so I had to stop by.

Having only one proper burger on the menu simplifies the decision-making process, but luckily their Alberta Beef Burger sounded delicious enough to be worth a try. Featuring Guinness aioli, bacon-onion jam and smoked cheddar on a sesame bun, the burger is a distinctive twist on the standard bacon cheeseburger. Although it may feel wrong, the replacement of bacon for the jam feels justified in light of how the intense smoky-sweet flavour compliments the beef patty. Add the Guinness aioli on top and you have an excellent burger that certainly feels at home in a swanky place like the Hotel Macdonald.



JESSICA HONG

Price-wise, my initial reaction was that it was a bit steep at \$20. But looking back at the restaurants we've eaten at previously, the bill actually came out lower than most. Unlike some restaurants, the Continental Lounge doesn't hide a high price by splitting up the essential burger and fries pairing. The Alberta Beef Burger isn't exactly low-budget, but it's absolutely delicious and will be worth every penny you'll drop on it.

— Adrian Lahola-Chomiak

Red Robin

There's a certain magic to the Red Robin franchise. They're a sit-down restaurant with a fast-food feel. Their burgers are of a gourmet quality, but the menu looks cheap, with all orders fully customizable and relatively affordable. The opposite goes for their fries, which are meagrely-portioned and often undercooked — yet technically bottomless, with as much extra salt and ketchup as you want at your table. At times, it's hard to shake the feeling that you're getting a lower quality of service than you actually are, but rest assured: the chain remains one of the best family restaurants available, with a friendly, simple atmosphere and an arcade built into every location.

This time, I decided to break one of my own rules of reviewing, simply because the diner's sole house vegetarian burger looked sort of bland in comparison to all the greasy, heavy meat burgers on the menu. So, I ordered the Sautéed 'Shroom Burger, and asked them to prepare it with a veggie patty rather than the usual beef. I was not disappointed by this decision, nor is it surprising why: a generous heap of butter-sautéed mushrooms on a toasted, buttered garlic bun, with a thick slice of swiss cheese melted on to the patty all combined to make this one of the most savoury and fattening burgers I've tried so far. I had to order three extra helpings of the fries in order to sate my appetite, but something tells me I'm not alone in that regard; my waiter barely batted an eye at my tuberous gluttony. As far as cheap, quick and tasty sit-down restaurants go, Red Robin has long been a favourite of mine, and it's nice to see they haven't lost what made

them so great since I was a kid.

—Brad Kennedy

Wendy's

Over the course of this burger-reviewing column, we've mostly stuck to eating at fancier restaurants. For some reason, we tend to favour these charming, independent little burger joints that always seem to be quaintly nestled in some beautiful old building, usually located off some busy, happening street like Jasper or Whyte Ave. But if you want to know the truth, you don't need to eat at some hipster burger house to find the best burger in Edmonton. If you've decided you're ready for the best burger of your life, all you need to do is seek out that ginger-haired fast food-slitting mistress we've known for years. Her name is Wendy and her self-titled chain is the best place to scarf down a burger.

Home to a wide variety of menu options that includes both beef and chicken burgers, Wendy's has more than any burger buff could ever ask for — vegetarians and vegans need not apply. My personal favourite is the 3/4 lb triple burger. The first thing your eye notices is the three square cut patties of juicy beef layered with creamy melted slices of processed cheese. Wendy's boasts that their beef is 100 per cent fresh and never frozen, and you can bet that I believe it. Stacked high atop those sizzling beef squares are magnificent servings of lettuce, crinkle-cut pickles, red onion and thick cut tomatoes. To tie the burger together, overzealous dollops of mayo and ketchup are heaped onto the burger. If you get your food to go, usually by the time you get it home those warm toasty buns have soaked up all the grease in the burger — adding another aspect of flavour to enjoy.

What makes Wendy's a cut above the rest is that it offers an exquisite dining experience that has yet to be equaled. For example, a 3/4 lb triple burger combo with fries is listed as "number three" on the menu. That means when I want one, all I have to do is mutter "three" at the cashier and my order is taken. You don't have to waste your time making small talk with nosy servers.

Forget everything you thought you knew about burgers and plan your next date, anniversary or friend's birthday party at Wendy's.

Between the Buns is a spring 2014 feature following the escapades of three, and sometimes four, burger lovers as they seek out the best in town.

ALBUM REVIEW



Timber Timbre

Hot Dreams

Arts & Crafts
timbertimbre.com

Kieran Chrysler
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @CHRYSLERRR

Using melancholic vocals and ringing electronics to offset their folk-blues swagger, Timber Timbre's signature spooky sound returns on their latest album *Hot Dreams*. The Canadian three-piece's decision to mix their standard eeriness with bluesy folk tracks gives *Hot Dreams* a full-bodied and complex sound that's as unified as it is unsettling.

While the record mostly embodies the band's signature spooky sound, there are traditional folk tracks interspersed, highlighting vocalist Taylor Kirk's Johnny Cash-esque croon. "Grand Canyon" is heavy on twangy guitars with a steady drumbeat, as Kirk chronicles a trip

from Drumheller to the Grand Canyon. The vocals take the listener on a slow, long journey through the countryside. "Bring Me Simple Men" continues in a similar vein, integrating a variety of instruments for a layered sound while maintaining Kirk's impressive drawl. Kirk's deep vocals match well with the quieting tone, effectively pushing the tone of the album.

The album's more folk-based songs are broken up by intricately ominous instrumental tracks. "Resurrection Drive Part II" is of this ilk, using bells, horns and dark guitar to create a song reminiscent of tracks on their previous album, *Creep On*

Creeping On. Similarly, the album ends with "The Three Sisters," using low piano and distorted string instruments to tie up the album on a creepy note. Instead of being out of place amongst the folksy tone of most of the tracks, these songs bring out subtle macabre notes found in other tracks, creating an overall sense of unease. This is felt most strongly in the lyrics, like on "Run From Me," a slow piano track where Kirk draws, "Run from me darling, you better run for your life."

While Timber Timbre generally approaches the darker side of folk, *Hot Dreams* takes their darkness to a new level, as their signature creepiness is measured by unassuming folk tracks. While there are fewer concentrated doses of spookiness than on previous albums, the sudden introduction of sinister themes highlights the darkness that lurks on the album as a whole. Surprisingly, the different styles weave together to create a cohesive album that's as pleasant as it is eerie.

the *brew* crew

with **Victoria Stowe**

Vanilla Porter

Brewery: Mill Street Brewery,
Toronto ON

Available at: Sherbrooke Liquor Store
(11819 St. Albert Trail)

At first glance, vanilla might seem like a strange flavour to find in your beer. But it's not as odd of an idea as you might think: the oak-aging process is commonly implemented to impart vanilla and caramel flavours to whiskeys and beers. Mill Street Brewery, however, has gone straight to the source and added real vanilla extract to their Vanilla Porter. Your first sip will dispel any apprehensions you may have.

The nitrogen charged tall-boy can is meant to be poured, imparting a thick, creamy head with muted carbonation. The aroma is definitely a highlight of this porter. Even once your beer has been drank, the sweet scent of vanilla wafts from the



empty glass, begging to be filled again. This beer bears little resemblance to the usual porter flavour profile, as the usual full-bodied bitterness and smoky notes are subdued. Still, the vanilla and coffee notes complement the chocolate malts, making for an indulgent experience.

Although porters normally pair well with sharp cheeses and grilled meats, this specimen tastes better with a creamy brie or a rich dessert. Try bringing one along to your next camping trip or campfire to drink with a few s'mores, or make yourself an old school soda shop treat by pouring your pint over two scoops of vanilla ice cream.

ALBUM REVIEW



Mac DeMarco

Salad Days

Captured Tracks
capturedtracks.com

Jeremy Witten
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @JEYWITTEN

Former Edmontonian Mac DeMarco's last record was well received for its half-serious lyrics, chorus-heavy guitar tones and refreshingly care-free aesthetic. On his latest record, *Salad Days*, DeMarco builds on his signature chorus-heavy guitar sound with cleaner production, more instrumentation and lyrics that are much more introspective than in his previous work. In doing so, he shows he isn't afraid to work and play within the same musical vein to perfect his sound.

It's hard to find anything written about DeMarco that doesn't reference his "I-don't-care" attitude — interviewers often seem mystified by his jokester persona. Yet on this record, his lyrics show he can

be a lot more personal than he's generally given credit for, singing that he's, "Never been reluctant to share / Passing out pieces of me" on the album's first single, "Passing Out Pieces."

The album also has its share of half-preachy advisory lines. Whether he's singing, "Let it go now brother," "Treat her better boy" or "Please go easy with my baby," he often comes across as trying to tell someone something (on tracks "Brother," "Treat Her Better," and "Go Easy"). It's a bit surprising to hear the lipstick-wearing jokester fans know and love from past music videos offering this kind of serious advice, but his lyrics are strongest when he's singing about his life, like on "Passing Out the

Pieces" where he croons, "Watching my life, passing right in front of my eyes / Hell of a story." And it really is quite a story. The unlikelyst of characters, an unkempt charmer raised in Edmonton, goes on to sell out venues like Webster Hall in Manhattan.

In addition to the album's refined sense of lyricism, it's nice to hear DeMarco's voice in new instrumental settings. The second half of the album has DeMarco bringing out warbly organs and keyboards, including a catchy synth line on "Passing Out Pieces" that makes you think of a carnival organ played by a madman. "Chamber of Reflection" features a sinister keyboard tone that walks the fine line between groovy and eerie, and is another highlight on the album.

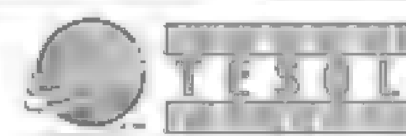
Salad Days holds together well and shows DeMarco to be a maturing songwriter, eager to bring out new instruments and polish his already recognizable sound. The closing instrumental track "Johnny Odyssey" is perfectly positioned to wrap up the full-bodied, introspective record, and leaves us impatiently curious about what DeMarco will do next.

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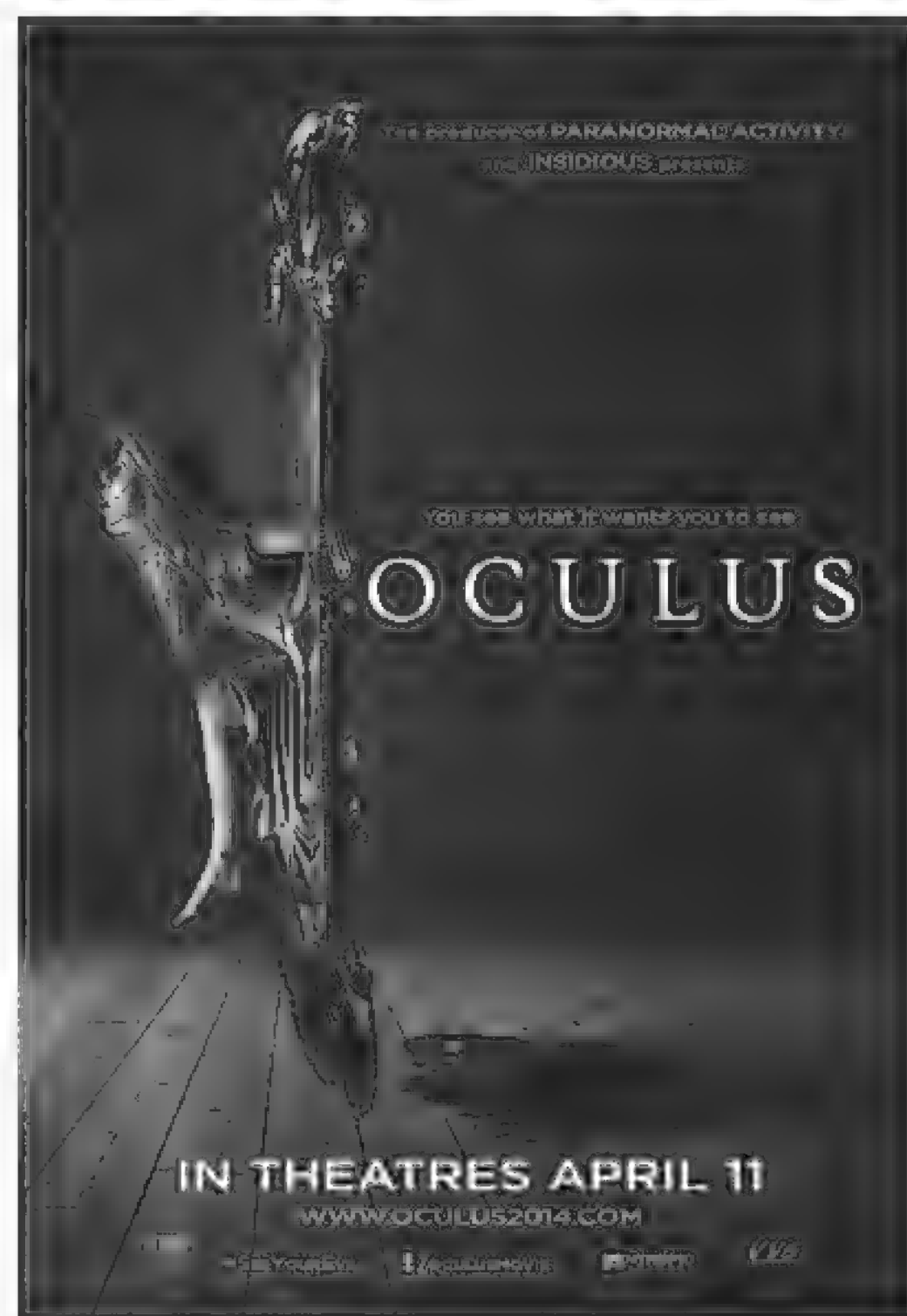


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SWEEPING SUCCESS Both the Bears and Pandas curling teams, led by skips Brendan Bottcher and Kelsey Rocque, took home silver medals from the CIS nationals in Regina. SUPPLIED

Bottcher leads Bears to silver medal finish

CURLING RECAP CIS Curling National Championships

Atta Almasi
SPORTS STAFF • @SCARBOROBLUFFER

For some athletes, competing for a gold medal is great, but playing for a shot at redemption can be even more important.

When Bears third-year skip Brendan Bottcher and his rink of experienced veterans made it to their third national championship game in as many years, there was more than a CIS gold medal at stake. Given the timing of the tournament, the winner of the game would also book a ticket to Spain to represent Canada at the upcoming 2015 Winter Universiade.

Bottcher and the Bears received the exact same honour two years ago when they won the CIS national championship and represented their country in Italy this past winter, returning home with a bronze medal.

Despite their eventual loss to the University of Manitoba Bisons by a slim margin of 7-5 in that game — and that fact that Bottcher admitted to wanting to redeem himself after last December's third-place finish — the chemical engineering student refuses to see his rink's second consecutive silver medal finish at nationals as a failure.

“I’ve definitely learned a lot about myself this season ... and what I need to continue working on as an athlete.”

BRENDAN BOTTCHER
SKIP, BEARS CURLING

“We wanted to prove to ourselves that we could get the result we wanted at the Universiade, but I know how much work we put into this season and we definitely left everything out on the ice,” Bottcher said. “That wasn’t quite enough this time, but I’m super proud of the guys for staying true to everything that has

gotten us this far.”

After winning another Western Canadian university curling championship on home ice two months ago, Bottcher said the team took some time to get a few games under their belt in order to work on their systems and make sure they were in a comfortable place.

But despite this rigorous preparation heading into nationals, the Bears struggled early in the round robin tournament, dropping three of their first five matches.

Fortunately for Bottcher and his rink, the team was able to get back on course. Back-to-back wins in their final games propelled them to a third-place finish and semifinal date with the Wilfrid Laurier University Golden Hawks, a formidable opponent that had already defeated them in the round robin portion of the tournament.

“It was obviously quite stressful losing those three games early in the week, but luckily it was early and we had time to get some momentum going in the right direction heading into the playoffs,” Bottcher said. “In the

round robin (against Laurier), we just missed a few shots early in our game which got us behind. We knew the playoffs would be a completely different story as long as we executed our share of the shots and stayed in control the whole game.”


Seemingly buoyed by a renewed sense of purpose, Bottcher and the Bears were able to advance to the championship final against Manitoba. Even though his team wasn’t able to get their desired result against the Bisons, Bottcher is content with the overall success his rink had this year.




“I’ve definitely learned a lot about myself through this season,” Bottcher said. “I have learned how I perform in a variety of different situations and circumstances and what I need to continue working on to develop as an athlete.”

The Pandas curling team, led by second-year Kelsey Rocque, also secured a silver medal finish at the national championships, losing 9-4 to the Carleton University Ravens. The rink was also able to win a gold for Canada at the World Junior Curling in Switzerland in February.

CIS Finals

BEARS CURLING



	5 – 7 W
9 – 4 W	
	5 – 7 L

PANDAS CURLING



	3 – 4 W
8 – 4 W	
	9 – 4 L

U of A men’s rugby club prepares for sevens tourney in Jasper

CLUB PROFILE
Atta Almasi
SPORTS STAFF • @SCARBOROBLUFFER

Most varsity teams have already hung up their shoes, cleats and skates after the end of another season competing for the U of A, many club level sports teams affiliated with the Recreation Services wing of the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation still have some of their biggest competition awaiting them once the winter exams are over.

The University of Alberta men’s rugby club, is preparing for their annual trip west into the Rockies to compete in the Jasper Downhill

Sevens Rugby Tournament, hoping to bring home some hardware for their efforts.

For the club’s president Skyler Dietze and VP (Finance) Kyle Peterson, the tournament — which will host numerous club teams from across Alberta as well as the Pandas rugby team — is just another sign that their club is competitive and deserves to be taken more seriously within the university’s sporting community. They’re also hoping to eventually receive an upgrade to varsity status.

“It shows ... that we’re serious, but also that people want to play the game and that people are interested in rugby,” Dietze said. “On a local level, the Pandas are a varsity team

for rugby so it I think it would just makes sense that we would be too.”

Besides their own competitive level and ability, the club looks to UBC Okanagan’s recent announcement that both their men’s and women’s rugby teams varsity, and the addition of sevens rugby to the Summer Olympics in Brazil in 2016, as a great opportunity to advance their sport to the varsity level.

Pointing to the numerous other rugby clubs at other western schools such as Saskatchewan, Mount Royal, Lethbridge and Calgary, the varsity status men’s teams have in Ontario, as well as the high levels of membership numbers of their own club, Dietze and Peterson are out to prove why the U of A, Canada West and CIS

shouldn’t hesitate to make men’s rugby a regional and countrywide varsity sport.

“This past year, we’ve had about 30 members. We’ve had up to 60 in the past,” Dietze said. “If we can get those kinds of numbers — and I’m very confident that we can again — than it makes us more competitive.

“We compete against teams from Ontario and B.C. in tournaments throughout the spring and I think as far as growth within the country and the province, rugby is becoming more and more well-known (and) more and more people are trying the sport out for the first time, which is huge ... What’s holding everyone back from making it varsity?”

As for the sevens tournament in Jasper, both the men’s rugby team and the Pandas will strip down the number of players on their squads to suit the tournament’s format. They’ll still be playing the same sport, but Peterson admits that having seven players on the pitch as opposed to 15 makes for a different sort of game better suited to a specific type of player.

“You’re only going to have three people in scrums in sevens (whereas) you’re going to have eight in 15s,” Peterson said. “15s is a little bit of a slower game (with) a lot more bigger, slower players, (while) sevens is a lot more fast-paced. You play on the same sized field, so you have to cover the same amount of space.”



AN OOK, GRIFFIN AND COTTONMOUTH Shannon Szabados has made an enormous impact on all the male teams she's played on. SUPPLIED

Szabados shines like a star in spotlight

Gold medalist an example that female athletes can hold their own against the boys



Katherine Hill

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Team Canada goaltender Shannon Szabados has a long history of playing hockey with men. She was the first woman to play in the Western Hockey League when she backstopped the Tri-City Americans in exhibition games in 2002, and went on to play for the men's teams at both NAIT and MacEwan University. In fact, while playing with the Ooks at NAIT, she set the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference record for most regular season shutouts with five, and had the lowest goals against average at 1.58.

But despite these achievements — and her successes in the women's game, where she backstopped Team Canada to back-to-back gold medals at the Winter Olympics in both Vancouver and Sochi — Szabados remains underrated in a world where elite female athletes are only considered to be as good as the men they face. And, like Szabados, even those who can prove they can play with the boys still aren't given more than a fair shot to prove themselves.

When the NHL's post-Olympic trade deadline acquisition left the Oilers without a goalie to back up newly christened starter Ben Scrivens, many Edmontonians launched a Twitter campaign to bring Szabados, a Sherwood Park native, onto the Oilers' bench for a shot at the highest level.

Though #Szabadosforbackup was a trending topic on Twitter, the honour of Oilers backup was ultimately given to Golden Bears netminder Kurtis Mucha, even though Szabados had arguably played in tougher, more meaningful games and Mucha didn't see a minute of action in the Oilers game against the Ottawa Senators.

With the team still in need of a goalie for their practice the next day,

the powers that be in Oil Country finally allowed Szabados the chance to practice with the big team, after balking at the idea of having her on the bench for an NHL game.

Basically, what the Oilers were saying through their actions was that even though Szabados — who was a one-time teammate of Scrivens in Tri-City and whom Jordan Eberle said was "pretty good" during her stint — was more than able to participate during one of their practices. Unfortunately, the record-setting netminder was just not ready for the bright lights of the NHL, even though she probably wouldn't have seen a second of ice time during the actual game, just like Mucha.

Szabados remains underrated in a world where elite female athletes are only considered to be as good as the men they face

Add in the fact that Szabados' accomplishment — although big news locally — was hugely overshadowed by the goings-on during the NHL's annual trade deadline, and it's evident why even the best female athletes still struggle to obtain their due recognition.

And despite her recent signing to the Columbus Cottonmouths of the Southern Professional Hockey League — becoming the first woman to play in that league — and stopping 27 of the 31 shots she faced in her Cottonmouths' debut, it's clear that if Szabados is to advance to primetime, she will have to jump over much larger hurdles than any male counterpart in a similar situation.

Szabados' entire hockey journey highlights the struggles faced by female professional athletes throughout North America and across the globe.

With limited opportunities to play professional hockey, the top female

athletes are forced to prove themselves in a league of men, further advancing the stigma against them that they're only as good as the men they face, even if, like Szabados, they've proven again and again why they're better than some of them.

This can even be seen in the schedule of the Canadian national women's team leading up to the Olympics as the Canucks took part in the midget series, wherein the national team faced midget-level boys hockey teams across Canada to prepare for their upcoming Olympic rivals.

Outside of the North American continent, the situation is even worse for female hockey players, as there are little to no opportunities for them to obtain elite development at the grassroots and professional level. Countries such as Russia, Finland and Sweden, who boast frighteningly talented men's teams, give their female athletes almost no chance to excel in international play.

It's because of this that women's hockey is currently in a very precarious position after another Canada-US final in Sochi that — apart from further cementing the notion that the sport isn't competitive enough to elicit a spot in the Olympics might also force the IOC to pull it from the next Olympic Games in Korea.

This lack of opportunity female hockey players face across the globe highlights some of the fundamental problems that all female athletes have to deal with.

It's promising, however, that despite this lack of opportunity, Szabados — and a few others like her — are slowly starting to blaze new trails for female athletes by proving they are just as good, if not better, than some of the men playing supposedly higher levels of hockey.

But unless there are drastic changes to the system, mainly in how we view and fund female sports across the board, we may have seen our final women's Olympic hockey game. As for Szabados, she may yet go down as just another one of the women who, despite doing well for herself, was ultimately unable to break through the glass ceiling.

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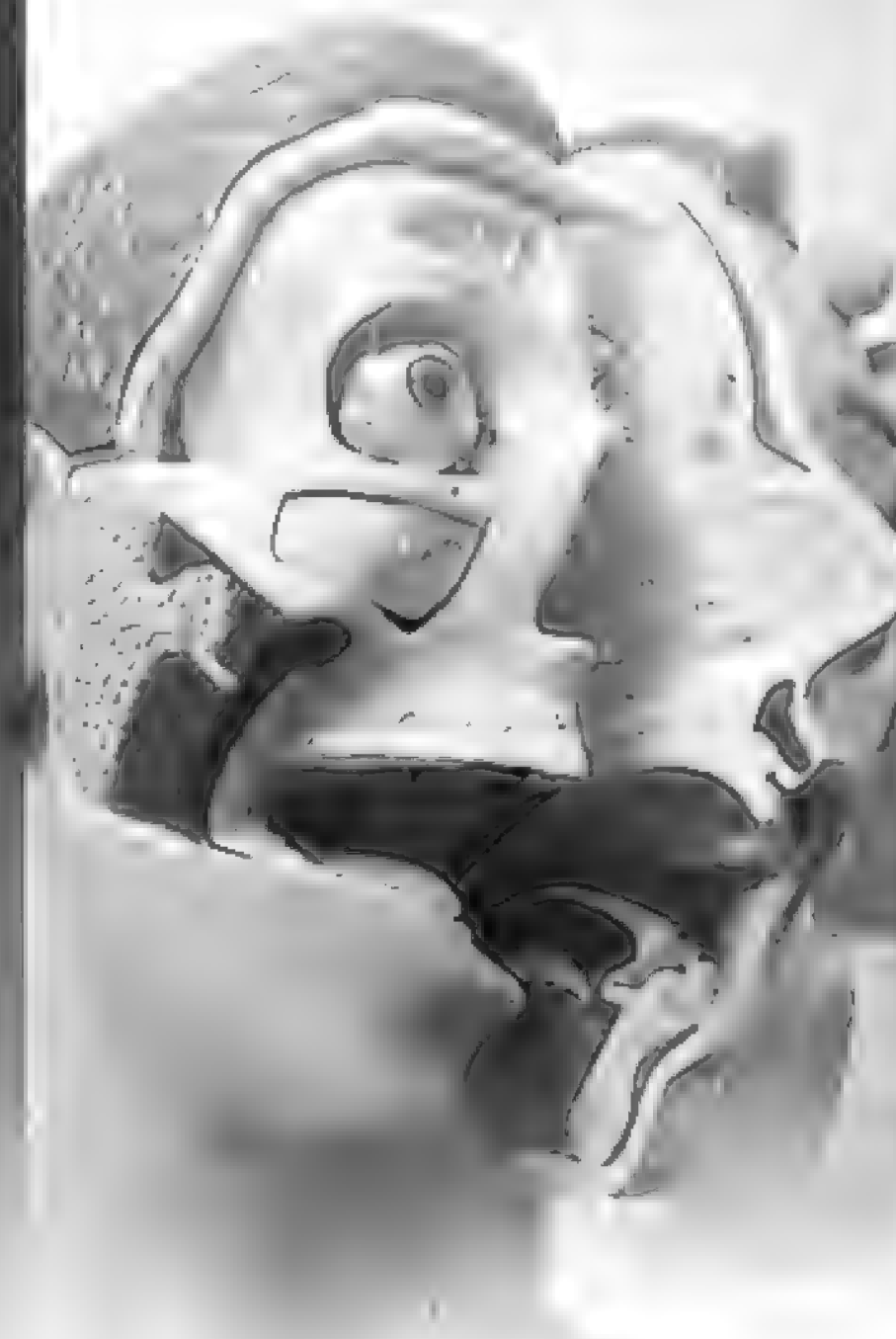


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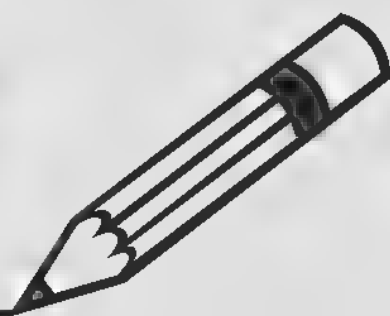


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REPORT CARDS



The stands have been cleared, the cleats hung up and the jerseys put away for another season. With the school's varsity sports teams all but done their competitive seasons, it's time to judge who were this year's contenders,

the pretenders, let downs and surprises. With our annual individual awards coming up in next week's issue, here are the final grades for your winter University of Alberta Golden Bears and Pandas sports teams.

Katherine Hill & Atta Almasi



A-

BASKETBALL

Finish: CIS bronze and Canada West champions
Record: 26-4
Canada West standing: 1st
MVP: F Jordan Baker

With four players from the silver medal winning team two years ago, and arguably their most talented team in years led by senior ballers and former CIS All-Canadians Jordan Baker and Joel Friesen, the CIS title was arguably the Bears' to lose. And yet, they couldn't find their way to the national championship game. After taking the Canada West title on home court, the Bears failed to win when it mattered most, and faltered against the perennially strong Carleton Ravens. Highlighted in the Bears' loss was the poor play of Jordan Baker in what would be his second-last game for the green and gold. After breaking every Bears record this season, Baker was unable to carry his team to a CIS championship, putting up only nine points for his team as he led them to a disappointing bronze medal finish.



B+

BASKETBALL

Finish: CIS 6th-place and Canada West bronze
Record: 24-5
Canada West standing: 1st
MVP: F Andria Carlyon

After a 1-2 start in their first three games got the Pandas basketball team off to a disappointing start back in October, the Pandas were able to improve their play. They embarked on a historic 21-game winning streak to clinch first place in the conference, as well as the hosting duties for the Canada West Final Four for the first time in program history. Unfortunately for this veteran team, a surprise loss to Fraser Valley in the semifinals had the Pandas playing for bronze, not gold, and an opening round shellacking to the Saint Mary's Huskies at the CIS Final 8 and a loss to McGill in the final consolation round underlined the Pandas' inability to win the games that mattered most.



A+

VOLLEYBALL

Finish: CIS and Canada West champions
Record: 22-7
Canada West standing: 3rd
MVP: LS Ryley Barnes

Coming off a season where they had a Pandas basketball-esque collapse in the Canada West finals and CIS national championship tournament after a 19-0 start to the season, the Bears volleyball team was able to turn a modest 3-3 record in early November into a CanWest championship victory. They beat the 21-2 Trinity Western Spartans on their home court to clinch a berth in the national championship tournament. Led by the play of athletes like Ryley Barnes — who was named a second team CIS All-Canadian — and a veteran laden squad, the Bears were able to down the Western Mustangs in straight sets in the national championship match to complete a seven-game winning streak and win their seventh CIS title in program history.



HOCKEY

A+

Finish: CIS and Canada West champions
Record: 32-2-1
Canada West standing: 1st
MVP: F Sean Ringrose

After last years disappointing finish, when one unlucky bounce of the puck robbed them of a national championship game appearance, the Golden Bears hockey team won their 14th University Cup in their 101-year history, capping off an incredible season with a Canada West and CIS championship. The Bears — who had only lost two games all season in their conference — started the year on a 14-game winning streak, and finished the year on that exact same streak, never losing a game in the post-season. After battling it out for first in the country all season with the resurgent University of Calgary Dinos hockey team, the Bears swept their provincial rivals for the CanWest championship. Two one-goal games and a double overtime victory later, the Bears were able to defeat the U of S on home ice 3-1 for the right to be national champions.



B+

HOCKEY

Finish: Canada West semifinals
Record: 21-7-3
Canada West standing: 1st
MVP: G Lindsey Post

The Pandas hockey team skated to an eight-game winning streak and 11 wins in their last 12 games to clinch a first place finish in the Canada West standings, booking themselves a bye to the semifinal round of the playoffs. Unfortunately, the Pandas hockey team didn't have the same success as the Bears, as they lost to the University of Regina Cougars — a team that finished the season under .500 — in three games and lost their shot at advancing to the CanWest finals and national championships. But even though the team had a disappointing finish to their season, sophomore goalie Lindsey Post, who led the CIS in shutouts and goals against average, was named a second team CIS All-Canadian.



B-

VOLLEYBALL

Finish: Canada West quarter-finals
Record: 13-11
Canada West rank: 5th
MVP: OH Meg Casualt

Sporting an uncharacteristically young squad entering into this season, the Pandas volleyball team surprised many by staying competitive throughout the year and making it back to the playoffs despite the massive loss of their senior leadership core from last season. With an overall record of 13-9 — which included wins over Canada West and CIS powerhouse teams such as Brandon, Trinity Western, Manitoba and a late season two-game sweep against the six-time CIS national champion UBC Thunderbirds — the Pandas achieved their first ever CIS Top 10 ranking of the year heading into the playoffs. But despite their efforts, the Pandas were unable to ride their newfound momentum, falling in two four-set games to eventual national champion Manitoba, failing to qualify for the CanWest Final Four.

FINALS



SWIMMING

Finish: 8th for Bears, 9th for Pandas
Canada West standing: Both won bronze
MVPs: Nick Kostiuik and Kendra Chernoff

Although the Bears and Pandas swimming teams both finished third in the Canada West swimming championships held in Calgary in January, they failed to translate that success to the national level, where an eighth and ninth place finish respectively for those teams left them out of the overall medal count. Despite this disappointing finish to their season, the swimming teams did see some great individual and team performances from some of their athletes as Pandas swimmer Kendra Chernoff won silver in the 200m butterfly and gold in the 100m butterfly to leave Toronto with two medals to her name. On the men's side, Nick Kostiuik won gold in the 100m breaststroke and bronze in the 4X100m medley relay to claim his spot as the top Bear at the meet.



TRACK & FIELD

Finish: 11th for Pandas, 18th for Bears
Canada West standing: 5th for Pandas, 8th for Bears
MVPs: Courtney Wilkes and Stephen McPhee

Despite being a powerhouse of track and field in years past, producing a plethora of Olympic stars such as Canadian bobsledders Jennifer Ciochetti, Neville Wright and Dave Bissett, the track and field program is admittedly in a rebuilding phase right now. As the hosts of both the Canada West track and field championships and the CIS national championships, the Bears and Pandas were unable to take advantage of competing on home turf as a few individual and team performances were the only highlights of both meets. Stephen McPhee and Courtney Wilkes were the only Bears and Pandas athletes to walk away from CIS with medals, as they both won bronze in pentathlon and long jump, respectively.



WRESTLING

Finish: Bears won CIS silver, 4th for Pandas
Canada West standing: Both conference champions
MVPs: Michael Asselstine and Marlen Figureoa


The Bears and Pandas won their second Canada West title in as many years as they headed into nationals looking to repeat last year's national championship and silver medal performances, respectively, at the CIS finals in New Brunswick. As was the case last year, both the Bears and Pandas were fuelled by great individual performances from senior wrestlers such as Michael Asselstine and Marlen Figureoa, who both won gold. Rookie wrestlers such as Melvin Arciaga and Cholenia Horne also returned home with some hardware, as they won silver and bronze, respectively, as the Bears finished with a silver and the Pandas were robbed of a podium finish to Western based on a tiebreaker system.



CURLING

Finish: Both won CIS silver
Canada West standing: Bears were conference champions, Pandas won silver
MVPs: Brendan Bottcher and Kelsey Rocque

With the Bears and Pandas curling teams finishing first and second respectively in the Western Canadian university curling championships, the U of A sought to make some serious noise by bringing home their first championship banners at the national championships in two years. Unfortunately, they were unable to accomplish that goal, as they instead clinched their second consecutive silvers at the CIS level. While this was a respectable result for both teams, this also means that they both lost the chance to represent Canada in Spain at the World University Games in 2015. But this year was also significant for U of A curling in that the Bears curling team won bronze at the Winter Universiade in Italy while the Pandas clinched a gold medal victory at the World Junior Curling Championships in Switzerland.



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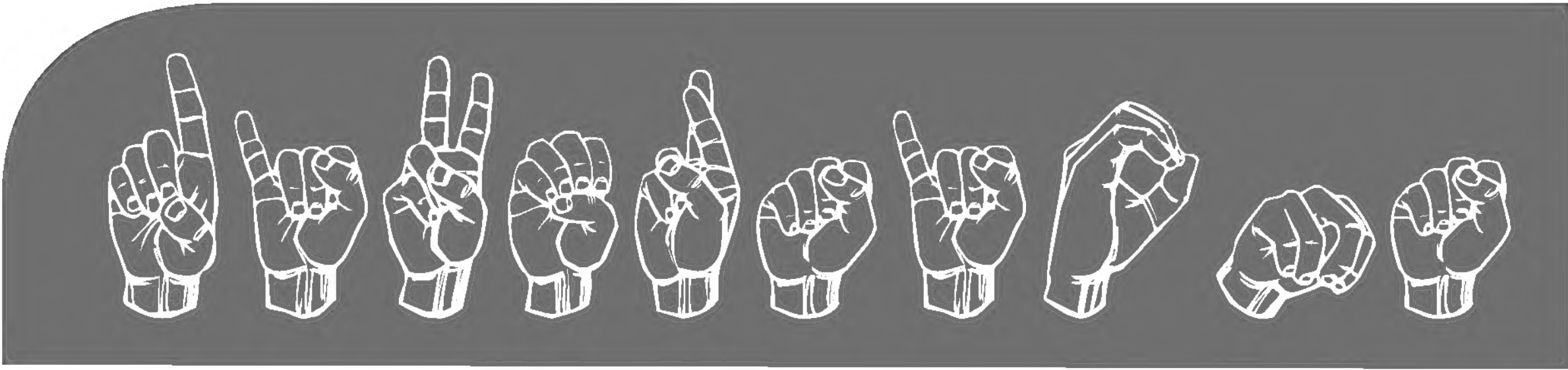
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easy

		3		8				
5			2	6	3	7		4
4	2	8	9			3		
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hard

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